



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT 2010



GRAHAM/GREENLEE

Regional Partnership Council

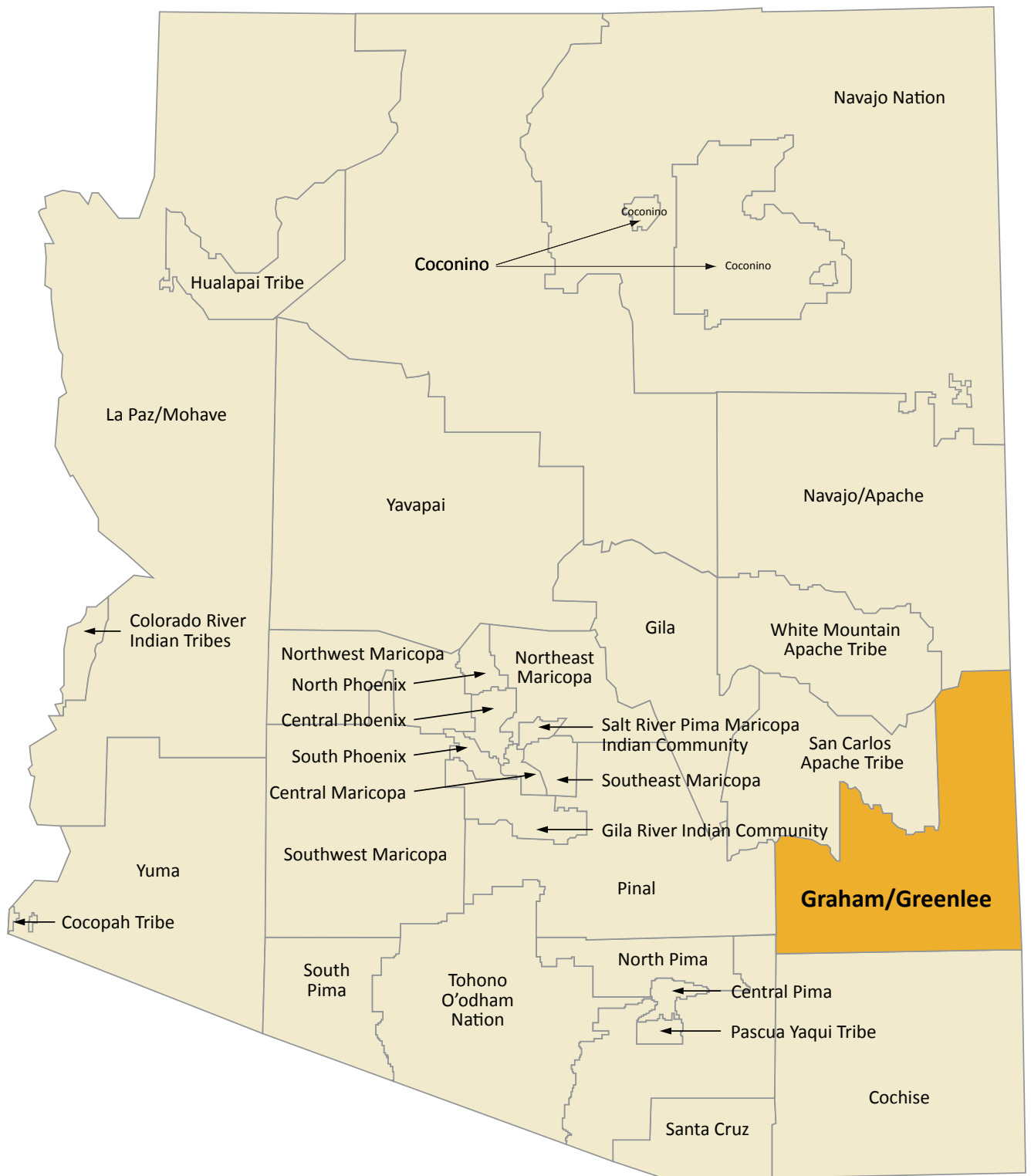


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Message from the Chair

July 29, 2010

Message from the Chair:

The past two years have been rewarding for the First Things First Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council, as we delivered on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families. During the past year, we have touched many lives of young children and their families through the expansion of a child care quality improvement initiative, distribution of parenting education kits, provision of child care stipends, a child literacy promotion project, therapist incentive, home visitation support, distribution of emergency food boxes, and emergency child care scholarships.

The First Things First Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council will continue to advocate and provide opportunities for families to provide quality child care and health care to their young children.

Our strategic direction has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports, specifically created for the Graham/Greenlee Region in 2008 and the new 2010 report. The Needs and Assets reports are vital to our continued work in building a true integrated early childhood system for our young children and our overall future. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Council would like to thank our Needs and Assets vendor LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc. for their knowledge, expertise and analysis of the Graham/Greenlee region. The new report will help guide our decisions as we move forward for young children and their families within the Graham/Greenlee region.

Going forward, the First Things First Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council is committed to meeting the needs of young children by providing essential services and advocating for social change.

Thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers and community partners, First Things First is making a real difference in the lives of our youngest citizens and throughout the entire State.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurie" being more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Laurie Smith, Chair

Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council

Introductory Summary and Acknowledgments

The way in which children develop from infancy to well functioning members of society will always be a critical subject matter. Understanding the processes of early childhood development is crucial to our ability to foster each child's optimal development and thus, in turn, is fundamental to all aspects of wellbeing of our communities, society and the State of Arizona.

This Needs and Assets Report for the Graham/Greenlee Geographic Region provides a clear statistical analysis and helps us in understanding the needs, gaps and assets for young children and points to ways in which children and families can be supported. The needs young children and families face in the Graham/Greenlee Region include insufficient family support services, a lack of licensed child care facilities in some areas, geographically dispersed high rates of poverty, a shortage of preventive services, cuts in child care assistance subsidies, and a freeze on new enrollment in KidsCare.

The First Things First Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and empowering parents, grandparents, and caregivers to advocate for services and programs within the region. A strong focus throughout the Graham/Greenlee Region, in the past year, has been Quality First expansion, child care stipends, distribution of parenting education kits, a child literacy promotion project, therapist incentives, home visitation support, distribution of emergency food boxes, and emergency child care scholarships.

Acknowledgments:

The First Things First Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council owes special gratitude to the agencies and key stakeholders who participated in numerous work sessions and community forums throughout the past two years. The success of First Things First was due, in large measure, to the contributions of numerous individuals who gave their time, skill, support, knowledge and expertise.

To the current and past members of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council, your dedication, commitment and extreme passion has guided the work of making a difference in the lives of young children and families within the region. Our continued work will only aid in the direction of building a true comprehensive early childhood system for the betterment of young children within the region and the entire State.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council also wants to thank the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral, the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona State Immunization Information System, the Arizona Department of Education and School Districts across the State of Arizona, the Arizona Head Start Association, the Office of Head Start, and Head Start and Early Head Start Programs across the State of Arizona, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System for their contribution of data for this report.

Executive Summary

Graham/Greenlee Executive Summary

This report details findings from the second Needs and Assets Assessment completed in 2010 for the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council. This assessment will be used to help guide strategic planning and funding decisions of the Regional Council for the next year. While much of this report includes pertinent comparisons with data from previous years, the 2008 Needs and Assets Report for Graham/Greenlee can be used to provide additional perspectives and background information on this region.

Region Description

Graham and Greenlee Counties cover 6,467 square miles of south-east Arizona. Graham County is located in the Upper Gila River Valley where the San Simon River and the Gila River meet. It is located approximately 160 highway miles east of Phoenix and 125 miles northeast of Tucson. The cities of Graham County include Safford, Thatcher, Pima and smaller surrounding communities such as Bryce, Klondyke, Solomon, Ft. Thomas, and Bonita. Greenlee County is located directly east of Graham County and includes the cities of Clifton, Morenci, and Duncan.

Demographics

Graham and Greenlee Counties have a combined population of 44,454 people, with the majority of them residing in Graham County (36,452). The regions are ethnically and racially diverse, with approximately 32% of births in Graham County to Hispanic/Latino mothers and 42% of births in Greenlee County to mothers from this race/ethnic group. Of the births in 2008 in Graham County, 13% were to mothers who were American Indian or Alaskan Native compared to 3% in Greenlee County. Over half of the families in each county identify as White/Non-Hispanic. The families who make up this region are also diverse in their composition. Families include a significant number of teen parents, making up 16% of births in Graham County in 2008 and 18% in Greenlee County; both rates are well above the state average of 12%.

Economic Circumstances

In regard to economic circumstances, 17% of families in Graham County lived below the poverty line in 2008 and this percent increases to 48% for single parent, female-headed households and to 63% for single-parent, female-headed households with children under the age of 5. This suggests female-headed households with children, particularly young children, constitute a high need population in the region. Graham and Greenlee County School Districts also show wide variability in the prevalence of poverty in the region. The average gross annual income in Graham County was \$38,714, which is a 12% increase from 2000 to 2008. However, this number is still approximately 24% below the \$51,124 median income reported for the state as a whole. Greenlee County data which is only available from 2000 (due to the size of the county) suggests that this county has a higher average income than Graham County.

It is important to consider the current national economic climate when assessing the needs and assets of local regions. The nation is currently facing one of the worst economic climates in the country's history and families and children nationwide are impacted significantly. The families in Graham and Greenlee Counties are no exception. Unemployment data may provide the most complete and up-to-date picture of economic circumstances. In 2007, Graham County communities had unemployment rates of approximately 4% or less, with those rates rising to 6.8% in 2008 and then to 14.0% in 2009. In Greenlee County, the rates rose from 3.2% in 2007 to 5.9% in 2008 and then to 9.1% in 2009. The rates for the first four months of 2010 suggest that the unemployment rates may be starting on a slight downward trend from highs in January. The unemployment rates in Graham and Greenlee Counties in April 2010 were 13.1% and 12.0% respectively. The unemployment rates continually show variation across specific communities within the region.

Net job flow data emphasizes the challenges many families in the region are facing. In Graham County, across the first two quarters of 2008 there was a net loss of 56 jobs, but in the first two quarters of 2009 there was a net job loss of 1,611 jobs. In Greenlee County across the first two quarters of 2008 there was a net loss of 293 jobs, and in the first two quarters of 2009 there was a net job loss of 1,419 jobs.

Many families rely on benefits to help them survive unemployment or low income levels. The number of families receiving nutrition assistance benefits increased by 39% from January 2009 to January 2010 in Graham County and by 44% in Greenlee County during this same time period. For children ages 0-5, the percent of children in the region receiving nutrition assistance more than doubled from January 2007 to January 2010. In most of the region's communities, 60% or more of school-going children are enrolled in a free or reduced school lunch program, as compared to 53% statewide. In addition, the number of children enrolled in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program, which provides supplemental food for low-income pregnant and post-partum women and their children, increased from 2007 to 2009 by 32% in Graham County and 22% in Greenlee County. The number of families enrolled in WIC also increased during this time period in most communities. The rates of receipt of unemployment benefits in the region further emphasize the severity of the economic downturn. By January, 2010, receipt of unemployment benefits had increased by 7 to 10 times the rate they were in 2007 in most regions.

Educational Indicators

Research suggests that a mother's education level can have important implications for the educational progress of their youth. From 2004 to 2008, the educational level of mothers in Graham County followed an irregular pattern, moving up in some years and down in others. The general trend in high school graduation has been positive, with 47% of mothers having a diploma in 2008 as compared with 36% in 2005. In Greenlee County, a positive trend from 2004-2006 of decreasing percentages of mothers without a high school diploma reversed, with the percentage in 2008 (24%) reverting to what they had been in 2004. It remains a concerning fact that in most of the years from 2004-2008 in both Graham County and Greenlee County 20% or more of mothers lacked a high school diploma.

Other important educational indicators to consider include assessments of early literacy skills, special education needs, standardized test scores, and graduation rates. DIBELS data is an indicator of early literacy skills, overall, the percent of students meeting the cumulative benchmark ranged from 40% to 67% in localities for which data was available. Two of the largest groups of students with special education needs are English Language Learners (ELL) and those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Data shows that ELL and IEP kindergarten students are relatively dispersed throughout the region, though a higher concentration was noted in Safford, the region's largest

population center.

In 2009, there was great variation by school district in the performance of the region's 3rd grade students on the AIMS mathematics, reading, and writing exams. Of the seven districts for which 2009 AIMS data are available, 30% or more of the students failed the mathematics exam in three districts, the reading exam in three districts, and the writing exam in one district. High school graduation rates show longer term outcomes for students enrolled in these districts. The Graham/Greenlee Region's high school graduation rates vary widely both longitudinally within schools and between schools. From 2004 to 2007, a movement of 10% in the graduation rate in a single year was common for many schools. The majority of schools had graduation rates of 85% or better for most or all of the four years reported upon.

Early Care and Education

A majority of children ages birth to six years of age in the United States participate in regular, non-parent child care which highlights the importance of quality care to early childhood development. In addition, quality of child care has been shown to affect many youth outcomes. There is one nationally accredited early care and education center in the Graham/Greenlee Region, down from two in 2008. This center represents 8.3% of the region's 12 licensed centers, somewhat lower than the statewide rate of 10.7%. The region's licensed facilities had a combined capacity of 543 children. The largest percentage (63%) of this capacity was in Safford, followed by Clifton (25%), Morenci (23%), Duncan (12%), and Pima (11%). The data suggests that some areas in the region lack ADHS-licensed facilities, and that efforts to promote increased licensure are warranted.

Examination of child care assistance data by Graham County and Greenlee County zip codes reveals a decrease from January 2009 to January 2010 in the number of families and children receiving child care assistance in all areas of the region. The State of Arizona started turning away eligible families and placing them on a waiting list in February of 2009. This waiting list has continued and will most likely remain in place at least through June 2011. In Graham County, the number of families eligible for child care assistance has decreased 42% from 182 in January 2009 to 105 in January 2010. The number of families receiving child care assistance showed a smaller (20%) decrease over the same period, dropping from 109 in January 2009 to 87 in January 2010. In Greenlee County, the number of families in the region eligible for child care assistance has decreased 39% from 18 in January 2009 to 11 in January 2010. The number of families receiving child care assistance showed a greater (44%) decrease over the same period, dropping from 18 in January 2009 to 10 in January 2010. Arizona Department of Economic Security child care assistance data for 2009 shows that the percent of families and children receiving child care assistance in the region is lower than the percent eligible.

Family Support Programs

Family Support is a broad system of programs, services, and collaborations designed with the goal of helping families function to their potential. Different family support programs and services approach this goal in a variety of ways.

Data from the First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey provide insight into parents' perception of services currently available in the region and their knowledge of child development. Most (95%) of the Graham and Greenlee Region parents surveyed were somewhat or very satisfied with the information available to them about children's development and health. However, approximately 43% of the parents expressed moderate or strong dissatisfaction with how agencies that serve

young children and their families work together and communicate. A majority (75% or more) of the parents surveyed in the Graham and Greenlee County region agreed or strongly agreed that it was easy to locate the services they needed and that the services they received were very good. However, 30-40% of parents did not feel the services met all their families' needs and felt that they only received services after they qualified as severe. Approximately 40% of parents did not know if they were eligible to receive services. While suggesting some concerns with service access and availability, most of these percents are below the state average for the same indicators. Larger percentages of the region's parents answered correctly on 11 of 22 questions concerning child development on the survey than did parents statewide. However, the relatively low level of some scores indicates that continued efforts are still needed in the Graham and Greenlee Region to educate parents about child development.

Child Abuse/Neglect, Foster Care, and Juvenile Justice

The number of reports and substantiations of child abuse can indicate an increased need for family support. The number of reports of child abuse in the Graham and Greenlee Region fluctuated from October 2007 to September 2009, ranging from 84 to 102 for each six month period in Graham County and 13-23 in Greenlee County. The number of new removals from the home ranged from 0-7 new removals for each six month period.

Foster care families and youth in the juvenile justice system may require specific services or support. According to the Arizona Department of Economic Security's most recent reporting, few children were entering out-of-home foster care by prior placements from Apr. 1-Sept. 30, 2009 in either county. No children entering out-of-home care were reported for Greenlee County during this time frame. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, 385 juveniles in Graham County and 65 juveniles in Greenlee County were referred to the Arizona Court System in Fiscal Year 2009. Of the 450 total juveniles referred, just less than half (44%) of these youth then received standard probation. Approximately 17% of the cases were dismissed, 2% received a penalty only, 6% entered Juvenile Intensive Probation Services and 2% were committed to ADJC. The number of a region's children who are in the juvenile justice system may to some degree be taken as a measure of the efficacy of early child development and programs in a region.

Health Coverage and Utilization

The health and safety of children is of the utmost importance, especially to parents. With the high costs associated with health care, most families are dependent on health insurance to cover needed services. Data from 2008-2010 shows that in Graham County the percent of children enrolled in KidsCare dropped by 20% during this time period, while the number of children enrolled remained relatively steady in Greenlee County. Arizona as a whole experienced an even more dramatic decrease in KidCare enrollment during this time period, dropping from 63,580 kids enrolled to 42,162. This drop in enrollment likely does not reflect a drop in need, but instead a cutback in available state support for the KidsCare program.

Healthy Births

A mother's lifestyle while pregnant as well as her access to and utilization of prenatal and perinatal care have important short-term and long-term implications for the health of her child. It is recommended that a woman access monthly medical care from the beginning of her pregnancy. Arizona

Department of Health Services data from 2006 to 2008 shows that the region was below the state average in the percent of women who received more than 9 visits during pregnancy. However, slightly fewer women in these counties reported no prenatal visits, as compared to the statewide average.

Teen mothers often face added pre-natal and perinatal challenges. Teen birth rates are higher in Graham and Greenlee County communities than state and national averages. Overall, there were 34 births to unmarried mothers under the age of 17 in the Graham/Greenlee Region. Over half of these births were paid for by public health insurance.

In a number of measures of the prenatal practices of pregnant women and characteristics of births, 2008 data from the Graham/Greenlee Region compares somewhat unfavorably with the state as a whole. Compared to the statewide average, more than twice as many women in the region use tobacco during pregnancy. Births in the region are also more likely to have complications with labor and/or delivery as well as abnormal conditions reported. The Graham and Greenlee Region is comparable to the state on many other characteristics related to newborns and mothers giving birth, including: rates of births with medical risk factors, primary and secondary caesarean births, and infants admitted to newborn intensive care.

Low birth weight babies are at risk for serious health problems that may affect their health throughout their lives. The low birth weight ratio differs significantly between Graham and Greenlee Counties. In 2008, the low birth weight ratio in Greenlee County was 65.0 whereas for Graham County the ratio was 96.3. The average for Arizona was recorded at 75.4.

Other Health Indicators

Immunizations have been shown to be one of the health measures with the most important contribution to public health in the past century. Across localities in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 83% of the 586 children entering kindergarten are immunized. Ft. Thomas and Morenci have the lowest percent of kindergarteners immunized of the locations for which data was available, at 50% and 60% immunized respectively. Bonita, Clifton, and Duncan report a 100% immunization rate.

Developmental screening is another family health practice essential for ensuring children grow and develop optimally. The percent of infants and toddlers who received Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) is slightly higher in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in the rest of Arizona from 2005-2008.

Over the last 50 years, the United States has seen significant declines in infant and child mortality, however, many deaths still occur that are the result of injuries that could be prevented. In Greenlee County, no child deaths were reported from ages 1-14 in 2007 or 2008, the only years for which this data was available for the county. In Graham County, four child deaths were reported in 2008, from causes including accidental drowning and submersion and congenital malformation.

For children entering kindergarten, the most commonly reported health conditions were asthma and congenital conditions, at 4% and 2% of children respectively across Graham and Greenlee Counties. Hospital admittance for asthma issues may sometimes result from inadequate preventative illness management or poor environmental conditions in the home. In 2008, 31 youth under 19 years of age received an inpatient discharge with asthma as the first-listed diagnosis in the Graham/Greenlee region.

Obesity is now considered a major health crisis in this country. Research suggests that youth who are overweight are more likely to become overweight or obese adults. In Graham and Greenlee Counties, the percent of children who are obese or at risk of obesity averages 5% across the localities for which data was available.

In 2008, parents in Graham and Greenlee Counties were asked to report on the ways in which they keep up-to-date with their child's health. Parents in all localities most frequently reported keeping up to date through either scheduled immunizations or when a child was sick. Numerous parents in the region noted that they did not have health insurance and so primarily dealt with emergencies as they arose rather than seeking any preventive care.

Graham/Greenlee Special Requests

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council requested that additional local information be obtained to complement the FTF Regional Needs and Assets Report. The following specific areas were addressed:

- Services that are available in the region
- Families' assessment of availability and satisfaction with services;
- Number of children/families served by various providers, and the demographics of those served;
- Number of provider staff employed, and training & experience of that staff;
- Staff-identified needs to improve & expand service (specifically professional development needs).

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Council provided LeCroy & Milligan Associates with an inventory list of services available in the region. This inventory included the following categories: Preschool, Head Start, Child Care Providers, Healthcare, Dental, Vision, Community Resources, Library, and Elected and Civic Officials. Additional online and phone research did not reveal any new services available in these categories, however expanded information on district schools and other services, were combined and presented in the Table of Regional Assets in the Appendices of this report. Some deletions were made when it was discovered that some providers had been impacted by the economic recession (and other factors) and had closed their doors.

In a community survey conducted for this needs and assets report, participants noted satisfaction with services that are available in the region, but indicated that there are limited resources available to them. Given the economic environment, it is not surprising that survey respondents noted a heightened need for access to community food and clothing banks. Support for childcare costs, and lack of available financially feasible options for child care were also cited as needs for residents. Service consumers expressed a need for increased medical, dental, vision, and mental health services for children, with many noting that area doctors had closed enrollment to new customers without private insurance. Frustration was also expressed by area residents who, based on income levels, do not qualify for supplemental services (such as WIC or Head Start), but who nevertheless face economic hardship. It should be noted that the Regional Council's efforts will infuse the community with new resources. In 2010, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council allocated \$636,000 to fund a number of strategies to improve the circumstances for young children and their families. Several of the Regional Council's initiatives have funded programs that provide economic or other material resources directly to families with young children.

LeCroy & Milligan Associates made several attempts to gather specific information on the number of children and families served by different types of service providers throughout the region. There were challenges with collecting this data, however, the information successfully obtained from the child care provider phone interviews and information given by service consumers in the community survey will add to the existing knowledge of service use patterns.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council members expressed an interest in finding out more about how the region's residents use services for families and young children, and whether residents are satisfied with the services they receive. To collect this information, LeCroy & Milligan Associates staff constructed a Community Services Survey. A total of 131 surveys were analyzed. The survey contained six main sections: Demographic information, knowledge of and perceived accessibility of regional services, use of services by category, satisfaction with services received, perceived barriers to service use, and open ended questions.

A majority of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to locate services in the community. Approximately 88% agreed that they knew where to find services for their family, 79% knew who to contact to find services, and 78% were confident they could find services if they really needed them. It is notable that over a third of respondents (35%) agreed that there are services they cannot locate in the Graham/Greenlee Region. The most heavily used services, according to this survey, were: Health Care (76.3% of the sample), Children's Health Insurance (56.5%), Dental Services (55%), Pre-School services and Public Library Services (both 50.4%), Food / Nutrition Assistance (45.8%), and Vision Services (40.5%). In response to a question asking participants what their 1st step in seeking Graham/Greenlee services would be, DES was mentioned more than any other point of first contact.

Based on this survey, most service consumers were satisfied with the services they received. Still, several participants noted barriers to receiving services, and almost all of those surveyed responded to a query about what services are most needed in the region. Residents desire additional services in most service category areas. Several respondents reported that they had encountered barriers to service use. Over a quarter of survey respondents cited, "Did not qualify for services" as a barrier to accessing needed resources.

When asked what kinds of services are most needed to help children 0-5 and families in Graham/Greenlee, the highest number of respondents (26) considered Preschools/ Head Starts / Early Education a priority area. Food/WIC/ Nutrition was ranked second, and many respondents expressed a desire for income eligibility restrictions to be expanded to allow for greater participation. Medical services and Health Insurance were high priority areas for many respondents, with a shortage of specialty providers noted, as well as caps on doctors' acceptance of AHCCCS clients as sources of frustration for residents. These results make sense given the current economic climate.

The Graham/ Greenlee Regional Partnership Council expressed an interest in finding out more about the number of children and families being served in child care settings. In response to this need, LeCroy & Milligan Associates conducted a phone survey of all known preschools, Head Starts, child care centers and individual child care providers in Graham/Greenlee. Interviewees were asked to provide information on: the number of children and families they served, the number of staff they employ, staff education and years of experience; and training and professional development. Not unexpectedly, there were low numbers of child care staff with a Bachelors degree or higher, though many providers have several years of experience in the field. There were a variety of suggestions for needed trainings including specific topic areas, general training opportunities, and information and resource sharing.

In response to the Graham/ Greenlee Regional Partnership Council's wish to understand professional development needs among service providers in the region, LeCroy & Milligan also scheduled two focus groups on this topic. Participants listed professional development experiences that they had attended in the past, and ongoing trainings they were aware of within the region. Four main themes emerged in the discussion of barriers to accessing professional development: Trainings held outside of the region; costs and staffing issues; a need for increased cross agency communication; and lack of advertisement and advance notice of opportunities. Suggestions to resolve the barriers included: hold more local/regional trainings; offer transportation assistance for staff; provide more funds/support for professional development; increase communication across agencies; provide advance notice of trainings; and advertise in more places. Several participants suggested that the Regional Council should focus on pulling the community of professionals together prior to establishing specific content areas for professional development to collaboratively prioritize the professional development needs. The opportunity to receive college level credit for professional development also met with great enthusiasm.

Demographic Overview: Who are the families and children living in the Graham/Greenlee Region?

I. General Population Trends

Prior to examining the well-being of children and families in the Graham/Greenlee Region, it is important to consider the demographic makeup of these populations. Demographics offer descriptive information about a region that can help to inform an analysis of needs, assets, and trends. Some of the important questions to answer include: How many families and children are living in this region? Has the population grown or declined over the last ten years? How has the population changed since the 2008 Needs and Assets report was written? Are there any specific sub-regions with notable growth, or other notable trends that might help to provide important context for an assessment of regional needs and assets?

These questions are answered in the following sections. Whenever possible, data is included for children ages zero to five, as this is the target population for First Things First initiatives. The data presented is the most current, reliable data that is available. For an assessment of population trends, data from the 2008 Needs and Assets report, as well as from previous years, is included as appropriate. In some instances, data from multiple sources is included, based on the years of data that are available from a given source, reliability of sources, and other considerations. Rationale for inclusion of multiple data sources is noted where applicable.

Overall Population

In 2008, the total population estimate for all ages in Graham County was 36,452 people.¹ Greenlee County has a significantly smaller population, with only 8,002 people residing in the county in 2008. These differences in population suggest that different needs and assets may exist in the two regions. For example, more sparsely populated regions may have fewer services available nearby, and transportation challenges may be more prevalent in these areas. It will be important to consider the possibility of these regional differences throughout this needs and assets report.

Population, All Ages, 2005-2008

	2005	2006	2007	2008
Graham County	32,617	33,372	34,977	36,452
Greenlee County	7,291	7,448	7,739	8,002
Arizona	5,961,239	6,178,251	6,353,421	6,500,180
United States	295,753,151	298,593,212	301,579,895	304,374,846

Source: U.S. Census Population Estimates Program (n.d.). *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008* (NST-EST2009-01). Retrieved April 14, 2010, from <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/NST-ann-est.html> and <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2008-01.html>

¹ It should be noted that data included since the 2000 Census is an estimate, based on the US Census Population Estimates Program.

Overall Population Growth

As noted in the table below, from 2000 to 2008, it is estimated that Graham County has experienced a 9% increase in population. The population in Greenlee County is estimated to have declined by 6% during the same time frame. Both Graham and Greenlee Counties have, however, likely experienced population growth since the last Needs and Assets Report was completed in 2008. Both counties' populations increased by 3-4% from 2007 to 2008, which is similar to the state average growth rate. This growth rate is above the national average of 1% (for 2007-2008).

Change in Population, All Ages, 2000-2008

	2000	2007	2008	PERCENT CHANGE (2000-2008)	PERCENT CHANGE (2007 TO 2008)
Graham County	33,489	34,977	36,452	+9%	+4%
Greenlee County	8,547	7,739	8,002	-6%	+3%
Arizona	5,130,362	6,353,421	6,500,180	+27%	+2%
United States	281,421,906	301,579,895	304,374,846	+8%	+1%

Source: : U.S. Census Bureau (2000). P1. *Total [1] Universe – Total Population* http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTTable?_bm=y&-context=dt&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U&-mt_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U_P001&-CONTEXT=dt&-tree_id=4001&-all_geo_types=N&-geo_id=01000US&-geo_id=04000US04&-geo_id=05000US04009&-geo_id=05000US04011&-search_results=04000US04&-format=&-_lang=en; Retrieved April 14, 2010, from <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/NST-ann-est.html>; : U.S. Census Population Estimates Program (n.d.). Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008 (NST-EST2009-01). Retrieved April 14, 2010, from <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/NST-ann-est.html> and <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/CO-EST2008-01.html>

Population Growth by Town

All of the towns for which data are available in Graham and Greenlee Counties are estimated to have seen a 3-6% increase in population from 2007-2008. Between 2000 and 2008, Thatcher experienced the highest percent change in population, increasing its population by nearly a quarter during this time frame. Since 2000, the two towns in Greenlee, Clifton and Duncan, however, saw a 5-6% decline in their population. These findings suggest that while areas across Graham County have been steadily increasing in population, Greenlee County has only more recently experienced an increase in population following several years of population decline

Changes in Population in Graham/Greenlee Towns, All Ages, 2000-2008 and 2007-2008

	2000	2007	2008	PERCENT CHANGE (2000-2008)	PERCENT CHANGE (2007-2008)
GRAHAM COUNTY					
Pima	1,989	2,084	2,165	+9%	+4%
Safford	9,232	9,246	9,823	+6%	+6%
Thatcher	4,022	4,707	5,002	+24%	+6%
COUNTY TOTAL	33,489	34,977	36,452	+9%	+4%
GREENLEE COUNTY					
Clifton	2,596	2,319	2,451	-6%	+6%
Duncan	812	731	774	-5%	+6%
COUNTY TOTAL	8,547	7,739	8,002	-6%	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000) Retrieved on May 3, 2010 from U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Population Estimates, *Table T1*; U.S. Census Bureau 2008 Population Estimates, *Table T1*. Retrieved on April 28, 2010 from [http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTTable?_bm=d&-context=dt&-ds_name=PEP_2008_EST&-CONTEXT=dt&-mt_name=PEP_2008_EST_G2008_T001&-tree_id=808&-redoLog=true&-all_geo_types=N&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=05000US04001&-geo_id=05000US04003&-geo_id=05000US04005&-geo_id=05000US04007&-geo_id=05000US04009&-geo_id=05000US04011&-geo_id=05000US04012&-geo_id=05000US04013&-geo_id=05000US04015&-geo_id=05000US04017&-search_results=01000US&-format=&-_lang=en](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTTable?_bm=d&-context=dt&-ds_name=PEP_2008_EST&-mt_name=PEP_2008_EST_G2008_T001&-CONTEXT=dt&-tree_id=808&-redoLog=true&-all_geo_types=N&-geo_id=16000US0402830&-geo_id=16000US0404720&-geo_id=16000US0405770&-geo_id=16000US0406260&-geo_id=16000US0407940&-geo_id=16000US0408220&-geo_id=16000US0409690&-geo_id=16000US0410180&-geo_id=16000US0410530&-geo_id=16000US0411300&-search_results=01000US&-format=&-_lang=en). NA indicates data is not available. *Percent change is for change from 2007 to 2008.

Early Childhood Population and Population Growth

	2000	2007	2008	PERCENT CHANGE (2000-2008)	PERCENT CHANGE (2007-2008)
Graham County					
Pima	1989	2084	2165	+9%	+4%
Safford	9232	9246	9823	+6%	+6%
Thatcher	4022	4707	5002	+24%	+6%
County Total	33489	34977	36452	+9%	+4%
Greenlee County					
Clifton	2596	2319	2451	-6%	+6%
Duncan	812	731	774	-5%	+6%
COUNTY TOTAL	8547	7739	8002	-6%	3%

First Things First calculates their own estimates for the number of children ages 0-5 in each region, primarily for the purpose of funding allocations. These numbers provide the most accurate estimate of children ages 0-5 in the Graham and Greenlee Regional Partnership Council boundaries, and thus are included below. From 2000 to 2008 the Graham and Greenlee Region saw an overall decline in population for ages 0-5 of approximately 8%, from 3,372 children ages 0-5 to 3,107 children in this age range.

Graham/Greenlee Regional Profile Data Change in Population 0-5, 2000-2008

2000	2008	NET CHANGE
3,372	3,107	-7.9%

Source: Arizona State, First Things First Fiscal Year 2010 Population and Potential Discretionary Allocations – Final.

In order to provide a more detailed description of this population change, Census population estimates by county for children ages 0-4 are also included below.² Similar to the trends in population for all ages, Graham County saw a 4% increase in children ages 0-4 from 2000-2008 while Greenlee County saw a marked decline of 16% in this population. However, from 2007-2008 both Graham and Greenlee Counties saw an increase in this population of 8% and 10% respectively. This again suggests that population growth has begun to increase in Greenlee County after a period of decline, while the population increase in Graham County has remained more constant.

² Please note that First Things First and Census Population Estimates are calculated differently and are not directly comparable. In addition, different age ranges are included in these estimates.

Changes in Population, Children Under 5 Years Old, 2000-2007 and 2007-2008

	2000	2007	2008	PERCENT CHANGE (2000-2008)	PERCENT CHANGE (2007-2008)
Graham County	2,604	2,515	2,721	4%	8%
Greenlee County	708	544	597	-16%	10%
Arizona	381,833	499,851	515,910	35%	3%
United States	19,137,974	20,730,216	21,005,852	10%	1%

Source: US Census 2000 and U.S. Census Population Estimates Program (PEP), National And State Population Estimate, Annual Population Estimates 2000 to 2009; Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex and Five-Year Age Groups for the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008 (NC-EST2008-01. Retrieved on February 23, 2010 from <http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2008-sa.html>; County Characteristics Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Selected Age Groups and Sex for Counties: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2008. Retrieved on February 23, 2010 from <http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/CC-EST2008-agesex.html>; Estimates of the Population by Selected Age Groups for the United States, States, and Puerto Rico: July 1, 2007 (SC-EST2007-01). Retrieved on February 23, 2010 from <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2007-01.html>;

<http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2008-sa.html> US data- 2000-2008, Accessed 2/23/10
<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2008-01.html> State data 2008
<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2007-01.html> State data 2007
<http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2006-01.html> State data 2006
<http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/asrh/CC-EST2008-agesex.html> County data 2000-2008

Other Information

It is essential that the estimate of population and population growth in this region be considered within the context of the current economic downturn. The numbers presented in the section above include data through 2008, the most current year for which accurate information is available. This population data was collected prior to the onset of one of the worst economic downturns seen in the United States in modern times. It is possible that the dire economic conditions have impacted the Graham/ Greenlee Region's population in the past year, but data is not yet available for 2009 forward. Though population data may lag behind current conditions, other economic indicators are collected on a more frequent basis, and these are presented and discussed later in this report.

II. Additional Population Characteristics

Significant research has been done on child maltreatment, resilience, and wellness in an effort to understand what factors contribute to positive and negative outcomes for youth. Most of the factors identified can be categorized into societal, community, family/parental, and child specific risk and protective factors. Increasingly, research suggests that it is a complex inter-play of these factors that impacts early childhood outcomes. While no single factor has been found to predict poor outcomes, all these factors are important to consider in assessing the needs and assets of a region.

Demographic data on family characteristics can help provide important contextual information about the family factors which may impact early childhood outcomes.³ Thus, this section of the Needs and Assets report includes additional information on the racial/ethnic makeup, immigrant and tribal status, family composition, language usage, and other relevant characteristics of the Graham/Greenlee Region.

While many of these particular family factors cannot be, or cannot *easily* be, impacted directly through program efforts, they still help to inform specific risks or needs that may exist in the community. For example, parent household structure has been correlated with the likelihood of child abuse in the household in some studies, with single parent household at increased risk.⁴ This section may also help to inform the need to target programs and services to specific cultural groups or sub-populations. For example, a high percent of Hispanic families in a region might suggest the importance of offering a parenting program/curriculum to young mothers that uses culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and activities to show and emphasize core Latino cultural values.

Whenever possible, data is included for children ages zero to five, as this is the target population for First Things First initiatives. The data presented is the most current, reliable data that is available with comparisons made to the 2008 Needs and Assets report, as well to previous years, as appropriate

Racial/Ethnic Group

Residents in the Graham/Greenlee Region are ethnically and racially diverse. Approximately half of the births in both Graham and Greenlee Counties in 2008 were to mothers who identified as White, Non-Hispanic, and both counties had a higher percent of births to White, Non-Hispanic mothers than the state of Arizona as a whole. The next highest percent of birth mothers were Hispanic / Latino, followed by American Indian /Alaska Native birth mothers. In Graham County, 32% of births were to Hispanic/ Latino mothers, whereas 42% of the mothers who gave birth in Greenlee County identified as Hispanic/ Latino. A higher percent of births in Graham County (13%) were to mothers who were American Indian or Alaska Native than in Greenlee County (3%) or the state overall (6%).

3 Peirson, L., Laurendeau, M., and Chamberland, C. (2001). Context, contributing factors, and consequences. In Prilleltensky, I., Nelson, G., and Peirson, L. (Eds.) *Promoting Family Wellness and Preventing Child Maltreatment: Fundamentals for Thinking and Action* (pgs. 41-123). Canada: University of Toronto Press Incorporated.

3 Weissman, A. (2003). Community characteristics associated with child abuse in Iowa. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 27: 1145-1159.

Birth by Mother's Race/Ethnicity, 2008

	WHITE, NON-HISPANIC	HISPANIC OR LATINO	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	OTHER / UNKNOWN
Graham County	348 (54%)	204 (32%)	5 (<1%)	84 (13%)	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Greenlee County	67 (51%)	55 (42%)	1 (<1%)	4 (3%)	3 (2%)	1 (<1%)
Arizona	41,925 (42%)	42,639 (43%)	4,301 (4%)	6,362 (6%)	3,425 (3%)	563 (<1%)
United States	2,273,220 (53%)	1,038,933 (24%)	625,314 (15%)	49,540 (1%)	253,396 (6%)	-

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics, Table 5B-8 *Births by Mother's Race/Ethnicity, Child's Gender and County of Residence, Arizona, 2008*. Retrieved on February 25, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2008/5b.htm>. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) *National Vital Statistics Reports Vol. 58 No. 16 April 2010, Table 3. Live births by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2008*. Retrieved on June 9, 2010 from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/births.htm>.

According to 2000 Census data on the race/ethnicity of the region's children under five years old, differences between and within the two counties again emerge. Graham County overall, for example, is comprised of 40% White, Non-Hispanic children under 5 years of age, while two towns within Graham County, Pima and Thatcher respectively, are comprised of 60% and 66% of White/ Non-Hispanic children under five years of age. Forty one percent of Greenlee County children age 1 to 5 years of age are Hispanic, though Duncan has the lowest percent of this ethnicity and age group within Greenlee, at 34%. As a whole, Graham County has a lower percent of Hispanic children under 5 years of age, at 27%, with the community of Safford showing higher rates (39%) than the county overall. Graham County American Indian children comprise 16% of the population, though the concentrations of children living in the communities of Pima, Safford, and Thatcher are less than 1%. It should be noted that this data is from 2000, (the most recent data available with a breakdown by ethnicity for this age group) and should be compared to the 2010 census data currently being collected, upon its release.

Race/Ethnicity of Children Under 5 Years Old, 2000

	AMER. INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE ALONE	ASIAN	BLACK	HISPANIC	HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER ALONE	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	WHITE ALONE, NOT HISPANIC
Graham County	19%	<1%	<1%	32%	-	14%	5%	48%
Pima	1%	-	<1%	27%	-	11%	7%	69%
Safford	2%	<1%	1%	51%	-	26%	6%	43%
Thatcher	1%	-	<1%	23%	-	9%	4%	75%
Greenlee County	2%	-	<1%	53%	-	25%	6%	45%
Clifton	2%	-	<1%	61%	-	30%	3%	36%
Duncan	1%	-	-	40%	-	13%	7%	56%
Morenci	3%	-	-	55%	-	32%	8%	40%
Arizona	7%	2%	4%	40%	<1%	18%	6%	46%
United States	<1%	4%	15%	19%	<1%	9%	5%	58%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 data included in First Things First Regional Profile Data

Immigrant or Tribal Status

An immigrant family is defined as one in which at least one parent is foreign-born. Even though many of the children in immigrant families are themselves citizens, these children face unique challenges compared to their peers. Educational attainment of parents in immigrant households may be limited, which may prevent them from helping their children learn to read or prepare to start kindergarten. Research suggests that children from immigrant families are less likely to be prepared to start kindergarten. In addition, mothers of immigrant children may not have access to, or feel comfortable accessing, preventive health care (such as prenatal care) which has been shown to positively impact youth outcomes.⁵ Many individuals of foreign origin may not seek the services they need for themselves or their children for fear of having their status questioned, even if they do have legal status to be living in the United States.

Proposed changes to Arizona immigration law in the spring of 2010 may have additional implications for the immigrant population in Arizona and their utilization of services. This law, Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act (Senate Bill 1070), which is currently under federal scrutiny, allows law enforcement officials to question individuals whom they have reason to believe may be in the country illegally. Some preliminary information conveyed at the House Democrats Ad Hoc Hearing on the Arizona Immigration Law suggests that some individuals and families in Arizona are already seeking services in other states or are not accessing services they need because they are afraid.⁶ The full implications of this law on service access, availability, and utilization statewide is not yet known.

Currently in Arizona, it is estimated that about 650,000 people are foreign-born, non-U.S. citizens (American Community Survey, 2006-2008). The Annie E. Casey Foundation estimated in 2004 that Arizona ranked fifth in the nation for births to foreign-born mothers, at 32 percent. Two years later, in 2006, the National Center for Children in Poverty projected that 78 percent of Arizona children born to low income families had immigrant parents, consistent with recent surges in immigration trends from Mexico being reported by federal agencies ("Children's Action Alliance," 2006). It is likely that these are under-estimates, as immigrant families living in the country illegally may avoid completion of Census documents, limit their access to services, and otherwise minimize their involvement in the system in a way that could result in deportation back to their home country.

For these reasons, finding data to accurately describe the ethnic and language characteristics of immigrant families in the Graham/Greenlee Region can be particularly challenging. American Community Survey average estimates across 2006-2008 indicate that 33,414 people in Graham County are native-born, U.S. Citizens; 480 are estimated to be foreign-born, naturalized citizens; and 1,040 (approximately 3%) are believed to be foreign-born, non U.S. citizens. This data is not available for Greenlee County.

5 Glasford, A., and Huang, P. (2008). Immigrant women's health a casualty in the immigrant policy war. *The Women's Health Activist*, Mar/April 2008.

6 House Democrats Hold an Ad Hoc Hearing on the Arizona Immigration Law's Impact on Women and Children (2010). Political/Congressional Transcript Wire 11 June 2010. *General OneFile*. Web. 22 June 2010.

Population by Citizenship Status, 3 Year average 2006-2008

	NATIVE-BORN, U.S. CITIZEN	FOREIGN-BORN, NATURALIZED CITIZEN	FOREIGN-BORN, NOT U.S. CITIZEN
Graham County	33,414	480	1,040
Greenlee County	NA	NA	NA
Arizona	5,567,662	283,915	648,603
United States	266,098,793	16,329,909	21,631,026

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, *Selected Social Characteristics in the United States; 2008 American Community Survey 1-year Estimate, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States*. Retrieved March 16 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US04009&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=3308&-_lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-ds_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_&-tree_id=308&-redoLog=true&-caller=geoselect&-geo_id=04000US04&-format=&-_lang=en; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_DP2&-ds_name=ACS_2008_1YR_G00_&-tree_id=308&-redoLog=true&-caller=geoselect&-geo_id=01000US&-format=&-_lang=en

Family Composition

The structure of American families has been changing over the past few decades. Many American families no longer consist of a traditional, mother and father household structure. Instead, many are composed of single parent households, teen mothers taking care of their young children, or grandparents or other relative caregivers. The full impact of these different family arrangements on youth is not yet fully known. Some studies have shown that children of teen mothers are at increased risk for physical and cognitive problems compared to children born to mothers who are adults.⁷ These children also face increased likelihood of economic challenges. Increased rates of poverty for single mothers are well-documented, and these economic hardships may impact educational resources available to youth, family relationships, and other factors associated with positive parenting environments.⁸ The number of families in which grandparents are raising their grandchildren is also increasing. While many grandparents make excellent parents, they require unique resources and face some parenting challenges. One consideration is that youth often enter the care of their grandparent after rather negative life events, such as the death of a parent or parent drug use, which may contribute to some increased risk factors for youth in grandparent care.⁹

The following section details the family composition of families in Graham and Greenlee Counties. It is important to consider the specific support needs these different types of families may have in order to help ensure positive outcomes for the youth in their care as part of an assessment of needs and assets in the region.

The American Community Survey defines a household as including “all the people who occupy a housing unit.” One type of household, the family household, “consists of a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.”¹⁰ Some family households have children, while others do not. There were 3,780 households with children 18 years of age and under in Graham County identified in the 2006-2008 American Communities Survey. Just over one third (35%) of all households were composed of married couples and their children. Another 11% of the county’s family households are headed by single females. Single males head the remaining 2% of the county’s family households with children under 18.

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- 7 Cornelius, M.D., Goldschmidt, L., Willford, J.A., Leech, S.L., Larksby, C., and Day, N.L. (2009). Body size and intelligence in 6-year-olds: Are offspring of teenage mothers at risk? *Maternal Health Journal*. 13:847-856. DOI 10.1007/s10995-008-0399-0.
 - 8 Jackson, A.P., Brooks-Gunn, J., Huang, C., & Glassman, M. (2000). Single mothers in low-wage jobs: Financial strain, parenting, and preschooler’s outcomes. *Child Development*, 71(5), 1409-1423.
 - 9 Edwards, O.W. & Taub, G.E. *A conceptual pathways model to promote positive youth development in children raised by their grandparents*. School Psychology Quarterly. Vol. 24, No. 3, 160-172.
 - 10 <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/Def.htm>

Makeup of Households with Children Birth to 18 Years of Age, 3 Year Average 2006-2008

	MARRIED COUPLE HOUSEHOLDS	FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLD, NO HUSBAND PRESENT	MALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLD, NO WIFE PRESENT
Graham County	2,413 (35%)	1,165 (11%)	202 (2%)
Greenlee County	NA	NA	NA
Arizona	461,402 (21%)	160,398 (7%)	60,471 (3%)
United States	24,045,128 (21%)	8,301,901 (7%)	2,537,787 (2%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2006-2008. Retrieved March 18, 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=true&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=05000US04009&-format=&-_lang=en; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=false&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=04000US04&-format=&-_lang=en; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=false&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=01000US&-format=&-_lang=en

Percentages refer to total number of households, including households without children under 18 years of age. Percentages for each of the geographic divisions (i.e., Graham County, Greenlee County, Arizona, and the United States) do not add up to 100% because data are not included for family households without children under years of age present or for non-family households.

The American Communities Survey data presented above provides recent estimates of family composition in the Graham/Greenlee Region for families of children under 18 years of age. U.S. census data from 2000 offers deeper analysis of family composition, focusing on households with children under 5 years of age and presenting data at the community level. The three tables below show the race/ethnicity of married couple, female-headed, and male-headed households with children under 5 years old in Graham/Greenlee communities. Percents are computed based on the total number of a locality's families with children under 5 years of age. For example, the table below shows that 61% of all of the families with children under 5 in Safford who are Hispanic are married. The next table shows that 30% of all families with children under 5 in Safford who are Hispanic are female-headed. The third table shows that 9% of all families with children under 5 in Safford who are Hispanic are male-headed. Together the three types of families total to 100% for each race/ethnicity.

Married Families with Children Under 5 Years Old By Race/Ethnicity, 2000

	WHITE, NON- HISPANIC	HISPANIC	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	TWO OR MORE RACES	OTHER
Graham County	76%	65%	44%	60%	67%	100%	74%	67%
Pima	80%	76%	-	50%	-	-	100%	77%
Safford	69%	61%	45%	27%	67%	100%	73%	63%
Thatcher	81%	64%	50%	56%	67%	-	60%	65%
Greenlee County	78%	74%	43%	71%	100%	-	65%	76%
Clifton	74%	70%	20%	86%	-	-	100%	73%
Duncan	66%	58%	-	50%	-	-	50%	60%
Morenci	80%	86%	100%	57%	100%	-	57%	87%
Arizona	21%	24%	41%	37%	15%	18%	27%	25%
United States	18%	25%	52%	34%	13%	23%	29%	26%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 data included in First Things First Regional Profile Data.

Female-Headed Families with Children Under 5 Years Old: By Race/Ethnicity, 2000

	WHITE, NON- HISPANIC	HISPANIC	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	TWO OR MORE RACES	OTHER
Graham County	19%	26%	50%	35%	13%	-	19%	25%
Pima	14%	17%	17%	50%	-	-	-	19%
Safford	26%	30%	30%	55%	-	-	23%	28%
Thatcher	16%	29%	29%	44%	33%	-	-	27%
Greenlee County	15%	16%	43%	10%	-	-	30%	16%
Clifton	15%	18%	60%	14%	-	-	-	17%
Duncan	26%	30%	-	-	-	-	50%	35%
Morenci	13%	8%	-	14%	-	-	29%	6%
Arizona	21%	24%	41%	37%	15%	18%	27%	25%
United States	18%	25%	52%	34%	13%	23%	29%	26%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 data included in First Things First Regional Profile Data.

Male-Headed Families with Children Under 5 Years Old: By Race/Ethnicity, 2000

	WHITE, NON- HISPANIC	HISPANIC	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	TWO OR MORE RACES	OTHER
Graham County	19%	26%	50%	35%	13%	-	19%	25%
Pima	14%	17%	17%	50%	-	-	-	19%
Safford	26%	30%	30%	55%	-	-	23%	28%
Thatcher	16%	29%	29%	44%	33%	-	-	27%
Greenlee County	15%	16%	43%	10%	-	-	30%	16%
Clifton	15%	18%	60%	14%	-	-	-	17%
Duncan	26%	30%	-	-	-	-	50%	35%
Morenci	13%	8%	-	14%	-	-	29%	6%
Arizona	21%	24%	41%	37%	15%	18%	27%	25%
United States	18%	25%	52%	34%	13%	23%	29%	26%

Source: U.S. Census 2000 data included in First Things First Regional Profile Data

While data is unavailable for Greenlee County, most children in Graham County live in married couple households, followed by female-headed and male-headed households. Still, data shows that both in Graham County and in the state as a whole a substantial number of grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren. Of the 1,220 grandparents living with their own grandchildren, 657 (54%) are responsible for full care of those grandchildren. This percentage is higher than the statewide average of 41% for such responsibility, and suggests that grandparents play an important role in the care of children in Graham County. Furthermore, almost a quarter of grandparents (291, 24%) who are responsible for their grandchildren, care for those children for 5 or more years.

Grandparents' Responsibility for Grandchildren, 3 Year Average 2006-2008

	GRANDPARENTS LIVING WITH OWN GRANDCHILDREN	GRANDPARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN	YEARS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN			
			<1 YR.	1 OR 2 YRS.	3 OR 4 YR.	5 OR MORE YRS.
Graham County	1,220	657 (54%)	58 (5%)	122 (10%)	186 (15%)	291 (24%)
Greenlee County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Arizona	143,837	58,702 (41%)	14,151 (10%)	13,436 (9%)	10,764 (8%)	20,351 (14%)

Source: U.S. Census 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, *Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2006-2008*. Retrieved April 22, 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=true&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=04000US04&-format=&-_lang=en; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=true&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=05000US04009&-format=&-_lang=en
Percentages are computed based on the total number of grandparents living with their own grandchildren under 18 years of age.

*Grandparent(s) who have assumed full care of their grandchildren on a temporary or permanent live-in basis.

Teen Parents

In 2008, 102 births in Graham County (16% of county births) and 23 births in Greenlee County (18% of county births) were to teen mothers. While these numbers may seem small, the percentages of births they represent are higher than the statewide rate of 12% and the national rate of 10% for the same year.

Number of Teen Births, 2004-2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Graham County	15%	15%	19%	21%	16%
Greenlee County	21%	18%	15%	12%	18%
Arizona	12%	12%	13%	13%	12%

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics, Resident *Births by Mother's Age Group, Race/Ethnicity, County of Residence and Year, Arizona, 2000-2008*. Retrieved on May 12, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/menu/for/births.htm>

As the table below shows, the majority of teen births in both counties were to 18-19 year olds, followed by 15-17 year olds, with few to no births for teens under 15 years old. Still, roughly 10% of each county's births are to 18-19 year old mothers. Increased outreach and/or prevention efforts targeting high school age teens could be a useful addition to county services.

Number of Teen Births by Age Sub-group, 2008

	<15 YEARS OLD	15-17 YEARS OLD	18-19 YEARS OLD	TOTAL TEEN BIRTHS
Graham County	3 (<1%)	25 (4%)	74 (11%)	102
Greenlee County	0 (0%)	10 (8%)	13 (10%)	23
Arizona	161 (<1%)	4,151 (4%)	7,849 (8%)	12,161
United States	5,775 (<1%)	135,733 (3%)	299,267 (7%)	440,775

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, *Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2008 report, Table 5B-9. Number of Births by Mother's Age Group and County of Residence, Arizona, 2008*. Retrieved on May 14, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2008/5b.htm>. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Volume 58, Number 16, Births: Preliminary Data for 2008, Table 2. Births and birth rates by age and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, preliminary 2007 and preliminary 2008. Retrieved June 7, 2010 from http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_16.pdf.

Percentages are computed based on the total number of births in Graham County (644), Greenlee County (131), Arizona (99,215), and the United States (4,251,095) in 2008.

Language Usage

In Arizona, Spanish is the most commonly spoken language besides English due to the state's close proximity to the Mexican border and large Hispanic population. After Spanish, other languages used include several Native American languages such as Navajo and Apache. Hispanics continue to lag behind non-Hispanic Whites on many measures of educational attainment. One study found that not having a basic understanding and knowledge of oral English prior to entering kindergarten was associated with low achievement in reading and math by the end of 5th grade for Hispanic students. These findings suggest that English language learners are in need of quality early childhood education. Household language use has an influence on a young child's language acquisition, and living in households where English is not the primary language spoken increases a child's likelihood of entering school as an English Language Learner.

While data is not available for Greenlee County, in Graham County 22% of the population 5 years of age and older speak a language other than English at home, substantially lower than the statewide rate of 28%. Of those who speak a language other than English at home, 5% reported speaking English "less than well."

Language Spoken at Home, Population 5 Years of Age and Older, 3 Year Average 2006-2008

	ONLY ENGLISH	LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH	SPANISH	SPEAK ENGLISH "LESS THAN WELL"*
Graham County	78%	22%	15%	5%
Greenlee County	NA	NA	NA	NA
Arizona	72%	28%	22%	12%

Source: U.S. Census 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimate (n.d), *Selected Social Characteristics in the United States; 2008 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States*. Retrieved May 17, 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US04009&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=3308&-_lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=true&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=04000US04&-format=&-_lang=en

*All individuals who reported speaking a language other than English (including Spanish) indicate their English-speaking ability based on one of the following categories: "Very well," "Well," "Not well," or "Not at all."

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- 11 The Center for Public Education (2000). *Top Five Languages By State*. Available: http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/site/c.lvIXliNQJwE/b.5057603/k.86EA/Top_five_languages_by_state.htm
 - 12 National Center for Education Statistics (2006). *Conditions of Education 2006*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.
 - 13 Reardon, S.F. & Galindo, C. (2006) *Patterns of Hispanic students' math and English literacy test scores in the early elementary grades*. Tempe, AZ: National Task Force on Early Childhood Education for Hispanics.

III. Economic Circumstances

The United States is currently facing one of the worst economic climates in the country's history. From rising unemployment to a dismal housing market, it is clear that the recession is directly impacting people across America in devastating ways. The national unemployment rate had risen to 9.9% as of April 2010, suggesting numerous families struggling without wages to support their families. In addition, it is widely acknowledged that this figure does not include all individuals who are no longer attempting to seek employment or who worked fewer hours than desired, and is considered a conservative estimate of families struggling without sufficient employment.¹⁴

Effects of economic hard times can extend beyond the obvious: Families' health and well-being can be impacted by the added stress. For example, some mental health professionals report a growing need for services, as do some doctors who report seeing more cases of alcohol abuse, drug overdose, mental health problems, and physical problems such as abdominal and chest pains associated with stress. In addition, families may avoid accessing important services such as dental care or eye care if they lose health insurance coverage.¹⁵ According to the director of the National Association of Free Clinics, the patient load at free clinics has grown by nearly 50 percent since the previous year.¹⁶

The effects of the economic downturn are certainly being felt by families and children. According to a recent analysis by the Foundation for Child Development, 17% of children were living in families with an "insecure" source of food, whereas this number is projected to have risen to 18% in 2010, an increase of 750,000 children living without adequate access to food. The rate of children living in poverty this year is projected to climb to 22% (from 17% in 2007).¹⁷

Federal programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are in place to help many families experiencing economic challenges. However, these programs are stretched thin as the economic recession continues. In addition, many local service providers who are typically able to step in and meet the needs of families in their areas are also struggling to keep up with increased demand for services to support these families and children. Some are experiencing budget cuts or are simply unable to serve all the families who require assistance.¹⁸

It is clear that the national economic picture, as well as the specific local economic climate has major implications for the health, child care, and educational needs of families with young children and the resources available to address them. This section of the Needs and Assets report highlights both historical and recent economic circumstances in the Graham/Greenlee Region through an examination of a number of key economic indicators including the percentage of the population living below the federal poverty line, median income, unemployment rates, and net job flows.

14 Straining the Safety Net: Is Joblessness Overwhelming Aid Programs? (2009, July 31). *CQResearcher*. Volume 19, Number 27. Available www.cqresearcher.com.

15 Recession stresses mental health system (2009, August 4). *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. News.181 (3-4).

16 Boushey, H. (2007). Understanding Low-Wage Work in the United State. The Mobility Agenda, March 2007. As cited in Straining the Safety Net: Is Joblessness Overwhelming Aid Programs? (2009, July 31). *CQResearcher*. Volume 19, Number 27. Available www.cqresearcher.com.

17 Szabo, Liz. (2010, June 8). More than 1 in 5 kids in poverty; U.S. rate is highest in two decades, analyses show. *USA Today*. News Section ,Pg. 1.

18 Straining the Safety Net: Is Joblessness Overwhelming Aid Programs? (2009, July 31). *CQResearcher*. Volume 19, Number 27. Available www.cqresearcher.com.

Children and Families Living Below Federal Poverty Level

The table below shows numbers of Graham/ Greenlee Region residents who fell below 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2000, by census tracts. This data, while a decade old, is presented because of its geographic specificity. It is suggested that this data be compared, when possible, with the 2010 census figures to be released.

Population Living Below 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Line by Census Tract, 2000

	CENSUS TRACT	CITY	POPULATION BELOW 100% OF POVERTY LINE	POPULATION BELOW 200% OF POVERTY LINE
GRAHAM COUNTY	040099913.00	Safford	792	1,936
	040099914.00	Safford	528	1,611
	040099917.00	Safford	777	1,592
	040099916.00	Swift Tail Junction	107	369
	040099912.00	Thatcher	1,106	2,588
	040099915.00	Thatcher	559	1,700
	040099911.00	-	865	1,906
	040099405.00	-	2,218	3,605
TOTAL			6,952	15,307
GREENLEE COUNTY	040119902.00	Clifton	114	631
	040119903.00	Duncan	433	1,126
	040119901.00	-	295	813
TOTAL			842	2,570

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services HSH database, extracted from Census 2000 Summary File 3(SF3), Christy Zavala, Community Development Program Manager, personal communication, March 25, 2010. A dash indicates no locality name was included for a census tract in the data source table.

Data regarding household composition is an especially useful “lens” through which one may examine the effects of a region’s economic situation on family life at the household level. It should be noted that the 3-year average period (2006-2008) from which some of the data presented below are drawn includes only the first year (2008) of the current economic recession, suggesting that the poverty rate for some types of families may actually have increased since that time.

Due to its smaller size, data for Greenlee County were not available. According to the 3-year estimates, for all families, 17% of Graham County residents lived below the poverty line compared to a statewide 10% living below poverty level. Married couple families show a considerable economic advantage on all geographic levels. For these families, the poverty rate in Graham County is 9%, compared to the 6% statewide average. The poverty rate for Graham County households with children under 5 years old (30.2%) exceeded that of the state (16%) by an even larger margin. Moreover, the poverty rate for single-parent female-headed households was 42% compared to 28% for Arizona. In Graham County, 63% of female-headed households with children under 5 years old were living under the federal poverty level, compared to the state’s 44%. This data indicates that female-headed households—particularly those with children under 5 years old— are at heightened risk for poverty and may be in most in need of assistance in meeting young children’s health and early education needs.

Percentage of Families Below Poverty Level, 3 Year Average 2006-2008

	GRAHAM COUNTY	GREENLEE COUNTY	ARIZONA
All Families	17%	NA	10%
Families with Related Children Under 5 Years Old	30.2%	NA	16%
Married Couple Families	9%	NA	6%
Married Couple Families with Related Children Under 5 Years Old	18%	NA	7%
Female- Headed Household with no Husband Present	42%	NA	28%
Female- Headed Household with no Husband Present and Related Children Under 5 Years Old	63%	NA	44%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, *Selected Economic Characteristics: 2006-2008*. Retrieved on May 6, 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US04009&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=3308&-_lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_-&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=true&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=04000US04&-format=&-_lang=en

Additional community-level data regarding children living in poverty in the Graham/ Greenlee Region is provided by the U.S. Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). SAIPE 2008 estimates for poverty in Graham/Greenlee school districts show wide geographic variability in the prevalence of poverty in the region. From a low of 5% poverty in the Morenci Unified School District, the rate ranges to a high of 34% in the Fort Thomas Unified School District. In 3 of the 6 school districts in the region surveyed by SAIPE, 20% or more of the students lived in poverty in 2008.

Estimated Poverty for Children Age 5-17 by School District, 2008

	TOTAL POPULATION OF DISTRICT	CHILDREN AGE 5-17	CHILDREN AGE 5-17 IN FAMILIES IN POVERTY
Clifton Unified District	2,003	359	41(11%)
Duncan Unified District	2,860	528	111(21%)
Fort Thomas Unified District	5,531	1,557	534 (34%)
Morenci Unified District	3,078	720	33 (5%)
Safford Unified District	16,415	2,826	558 (20%)
Thatcher Unified District	6,878	1,351	190 (14%)

Source: U.S. Census Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), *Estimates for Arizona School Districts, 2008*. Retrieved on May 6, 2010 from <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saie/district.html>. Estimates are available only for school districts identified in the U.S. Census Bureau's school district mapping project. The U.S. Census states that these estimates have a confidence interval of 90%, which means the actual number may be 5% higher or lower.

Household Income

Household income serves as another useful indicator for examining the economic status of the Graham/ Greenlee Region's families. According to an American Community Survey estimate, the average median household gross annual income for 2006-2008 in Graham County was \$38,714, a 12% increase from 2000. This increase exceeds a 9% increase statewide and a 4% national increase over the same period of time. Still, the 2006-2008 Graham County median household gross annual income of \$38,714 is approximately 24% below the \$51,124 reported for the state as a whole for the period. In Greenlee County, the median family gross annual income in 2000 was \$43,523, but estimates for the 2006-2008 time period were unavailable due to the county's smaller size. It is important to note that this data does not reflect more recent economic downturns at the local, state and national levels.

Median Family Gross Annual Income, 2000 and 3 Year Average 2006-2008

	2000	2006-2008 3 YEAR AVERAGE	PERCENT CHANGE
Graham County	\$34,417	38,714	+12%
Greenlee County	\$43,523	NA	NA
Arizona	\$46,723	\$51,124	+9%
United States	\$50,046	\$52,175	+4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.); U.S. Census Bureau 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, *Selected Economic Characteristics: 2006-2008*; Census 2000, Summary File 3 *Table P77. Median Family Income in 1999 (Dollars)* [1]. Retrieved May 6, 2010 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTTable?_bm=y&-context=dt&-ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&-CONTEXT=dt&-mt_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U_P077&-tree_id=403&-redoLog=true&-all_geo_types=N&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=01000US&-geo_id=04000US04&-geo_id=05000US04025&-search_results=04000US04&-format=&-_lang=en; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=05000US04009&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=3308&-_lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=04000US04&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-context=adp&-ds_name=&-tree_id=3308&-_lang=en&-redoLog=false&-format=; http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR3&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=false&-_caller=geoselect&-geo_id=01000US&-format=&-_lang=en

The data presented above show that median family income in the Graham/ Greenlee Region has been well below that of the state as a whole. Further examination of median family income reveals that, like poverty level information, there are major differences in median income for families with children under 18 years of age based on family type. In the table below, U.S. Census data indicate that in 2000 the median income in Graham County was \$43,066 for married couple, \$19,563 for male-headed and \$13,352 for female-headed families with children under 18. This means that the median income of male-headed and female-headed families was, respectively, 65% and 69% lower than that of married couple families. In Greenlee County, there are substantial differences in the picture. The 2000 median income for those with children under 18 in Greenlee was \$48,938 for married families, \$34,286 for male-headed families and \$16,458 for female-headed families. While the median income for female-headed households with children under 18 was 66% lower than married families, the male-headed households were only 30% lower. While we do not have data to confirm this, it is likely that the difference in 2000 in Greenlee County was due to the availability of higher paying mining jobs in that community. In both communities, the data suggest once again that female-headed households with children constitute a significant group in need of assistance and that children living in such households would benefit from supplementation programs.

2000 Median Income of Families with Children Under 18 by Family Type

	FEMALE-HEADED FAMILIES	MALE-HEADED FAMILIES	MARRIED COUPLES
Graham County	\$13,352	\$19,563	\$43,066
Greenlee County	\$16,458	\$34,286	\$48,938
Arizona	\$21,517	\$28,171	\$53,815
United States	\$20,284	\$29,907	\$59,461

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.) (FTF Regional Profile)

Employment and Unemployment

A region's unemployment rate may provide the most complete and up to date picture of its economic condition because it is an indicator that has been calculated monthly for many years, and the latest data is no more than 1-2 months old. Moreover, it is calculated at the community level, allowing analysis of variation in economic conditions by locality.

Examination of the 2007-2009 unemployment rates for both Graham and Greenlee counties shows the trajectory of impact of the recent economic recession as well as the geographic variability of that impact. In 2007, most Graham County communities had unemployment rates of approximately 4% or less, with those rates rising by 2-3% in the following year. In 2009, the unemployment rate rose sharply across Graham County. The table below shows that the rate varied somewhat by community, ranging from a low of 9.4% in Safford to 13.5% in Swift Trail Junction. Across the county as a whole, excluding Native American Reservations, the unemployment rate rose from 2.8% in 2007, to 5.1% in 2008 and 10.7% in 2009.

In Greenlee County, unemployment rates in 2007 ranged from a low of 1.7% in Morenci to a high of 4.8 percent in Clifton. In 2008, those rates rose by 1-3%, and by 2009, the rates rose sharply across Greenlee County. Rates varied somewhat by community, ranging from a low of 9.6% in Morenci to a high of 24% in Clifton. Across the county as a whole, the unemployment rate rose from 3.2% in 2007, to 5.1% in 2008, and to 17.4% in 2009.

It is crucial to consider this data while reflecting on the state of young children and their families across the region. While the Federal Poverty Level data supplied in this report is the most up to date available, it does not yet reflect the steep rise in economic hardship indicated by these unemployment rates.

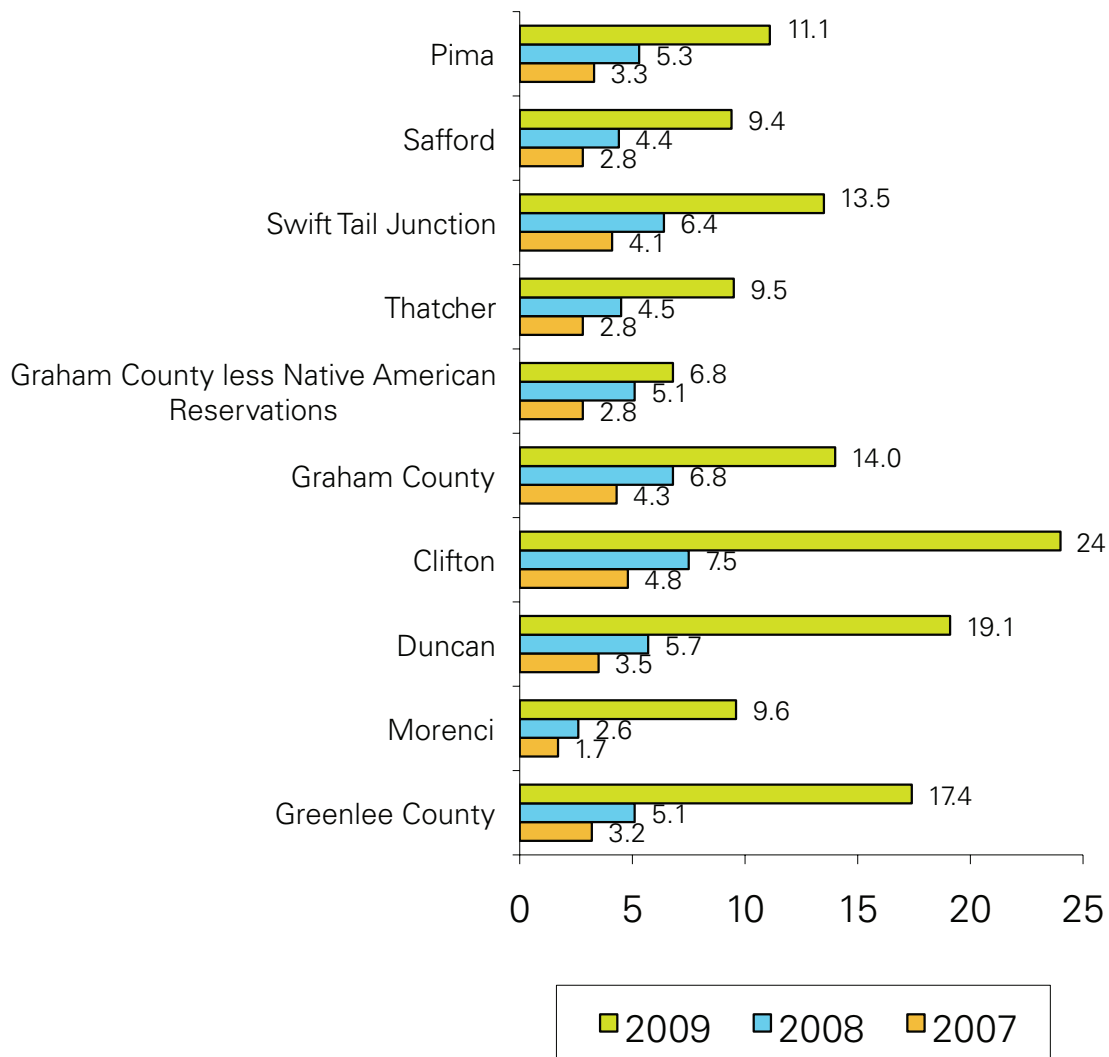
Unemployment Rates* for Graham County and Greenlee County Localities, 2007-2009

	2007	2008	2009
GRAHAM COUNTY			
Pima	3.3%	5.3%	11.1%
Safford	2.8%	4.4%	9.4%
Swift Trail Junction	4.1%	6.4%	13.5%
Thatcher	2.8%	4.5%	9.5%
Graham County less Native American Reservations	2.8%	5.1%	10.7%
Graham County	4.3%	6.8%	14.0%
GREENLEE COUNTY			
Clifton	4.8%	7.5%	24.0%
Duncan	3.5%	5.7%	19.1%
Morenci	1.7%	2.6%	9.6%
Greenlee County	3.2%	5.1%	17.4%
Arizona	3.8%	5.9%	9.1%
United States	4.6%	5.8%	9.3%

Source: Arizona State, Department of Commerce, Arizona Workforce Informer, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Arizona Unemployment Statistics Program, Special Unemployment Report, 2007-2009. Retrieved May 11, 2010 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=160> ; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Household Data Annual Averages, 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population, 1940 to date. Retrieved on May 11, 2010 from <http://www.bls.gov/cps/tables.htm#empstat>. *The rates are the averages for the years. In 2007, the unemployment rate in Arizona ranged from 3.3% to 4.3%. In 2008, the rate ranged from 4.7% to 7.5%, steadily rising over the course of the year. In 2009, the rate ranged from 8.2% to a high of 9.9% in July.

The graph below shows the marked increases in the unemployment rate in Graham County and Greenlee County from 2007-2009 presented in the table above.

Unemployment Rates* for Graham County and Greenlee County Localities, 2007-2009



Even more recent data is available, on a month-to-month basis, for both counties. A current “snapshot” of the unemployment rate in Graham County in 2010 shows a gradual decline over the first four months of the year from 15.4%, in January to 13.1% in April. Over that period, the Graham County unemployment rate has ranged from 5.7% to 3.2% higher than that of the state as a whole. Greenlee County data also indicates a slight drop from January 2010 (13.1%) to April (12%), with that community ranging from 3.4% to 2.1% higher than the state of Arizona.

Unemployment Rate for Graham County and Greenlee County, Jan-April 2010

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.
Graham County	15.4%	15.1%	14.5%	13.1%
Greenlee County	13.1%	12.9%	11.9%	12.0%
Arizona	9.7%	9.8%	9.4%	9.1%
United States	9.7%	9.7%	9.7%	9.9%

Source: Arizona State, Department of Commerce, Arizona Workforce Informer, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), *Arizona Unemployment Statistics Program, Special Unemployment Report, 2010*. Retrieved on May 11, 2010 from <http://www.workforce.az.gov/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=160>; United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*. Retrieved from <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost>

Additional employment indicators may create a more detailed image of the impact of the economic recession on families in the Graham/ Greenlee Region. In Graham County, average earnings fluctuate across 2008 and the first two quarters of 2009. However, data regarding net job flows, new hires, and total employment exhibit discernible trends over that same period. Net job flow refers to the balance of jobs created and lost. While data is not complete for 2009, it is reasonable to compare the same quarters across years. In Graham County, across the first two quarters of 2008 there was a net loss of 56 jobs, but in the first two quarters of 2009 there was a net loss of 1,611 jobs. In the first three quarters of 2008 there were 5,020 new hires in Graham County, while in the first three quarters of 2009 there were just 2,998. Total employment for the first three quarters of 2008 averaged 9,381 while total employment for the first three quarters of 2009 averaged 8,372.

Key Employment Indicators for Graham County

	2008 QUARTER 1	2008 QUARTER 2	2008 QUARTER 3	2008 QUARTER 4	2009 QUARTER 1	2009 QUARTER 2	2009 QUARTER 3
Average Monthly Earnings	\$2,749	\$2,899	\$2,744	\$2,826	\$2,619	\$2,892	NA
Average New Hire Earnings	\$2,340	\$2,215	\$2,125	\$1,916	\$1,386	\$1,788	NA
Job Creation	570	541	396	1,399	310	412	NA
Net Job Flows	202	-258	-234	706	-822	-809	NA
New Hires	1,710	1,720	1,590	1,399	941	1,053	1,004
Separations	1,795	2,262	2,001	2,266	2,076	2,083	NA
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	9,600	9,685	8,860	9,219	9,261	8,475	7,381
Turnover	11.0%	13.0%	10.7%	10.7%	10.2%	13.5%	NA

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, QWI (Quarterly Workforce Indicators) Online (NAICS), *LEHD State of Arizona County Reports*. Retrieved on May 13, 2010 from <http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/datatools/qwiapp.html>. LEHD is the acronym for Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics. NAICS is the acronym for the North American Industry Classification System. The data presented are for all sectors included in the system. NA indicates no data is available for an indicator. The third quarter of 2009 is the last period for which data is available.

In Greenlee County, across the first two quarters of 2008 there was a net gain of 293 jobs, but in the first two quarters of 2009 there was a net loss of 1,419 jobs. In the first three quarters of 2008 there were 2,509 new hires in Greenlee County, while in the first three quarters of 2009 there were just 590. Total employment for the first three quarters of 2008 averaged 5,109 while total employment for the first three quarters of 2009 averaged 3,561.

Key Employment Indicators for Greenlee County

	2008 QUARTER 1	2008 QUARTER 2	2008 QUARTER 3	2008 QUARTER 4	2009 QUARTER 1	2009 QUARTER 2	2009 QUARTER 3
Average Monthly Earnings	\$4,827	\$4,324	\$4,371	\$4,473	\$3,934	\$4,278	NA
Average New Hire Earnings	\$3,813	\$4,682	\$4,148	\$3,768	\$3,422	\$3,970	NA
Job Creation	280	315	378	88	34	73	NA
Net Job Flows	132	161	333	-495	-545	-874	NA
New Hires	677	822	1,010	581	182	180	228
Separations	649	776	738	1,151	754	1,102	NA
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	5,009	5,090	5,228	4,922	4,270	3,402	3,010
Turnover	8.4%	9.7%	8.5%	11.0%	10.1%	22.1%	NA

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, QWI (Quarterly Workforce Indicators) Online (NAICS), *LEHD State of Arizona County Reports*. Retrieved on May 13, 2010 from <http://lehd.did.census.gov/led/datatools/qwiapp.html>. LEHD is the acronym for Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics. NAICS is the acronym for the North American Industry Classification System. The data presented are for all sectors included in the system. NA indicates no data is available for an indicator. The third quarter of the 2009 is the last period for which data is available.

Other Relevant Economic Indicators

Additional data is provided below on the mining industry in Graham and Greenlee Counties, due to its importance to the local economy. It is clear from the data below that the first Quarter of 2009 showed reductions across most of the indicators provided, when compared to the average of the four prior quarters. It is likely that the economic recession began to impact this industry, resulting in fewer jobs and reduced wages. The net flow of jobs in each of the counties declined much more rapidly during this quarter, losing 97 jobs in Graham County the first quarter of 2009, compared to an average of 10 jobs lost across the four quarters reported. Greenlee saw an even more dramatic decrease in job flow, losing 399 jobs in the first quarter of 2009 compared to an average of 65 jobs across the previous four quarters reported. Across Arizona, the total employment in the mining industry declined from an average of 13,101 to 12,354 in the first quarter of 2009. Other industries likely faced similar challenges in these economic times.

Key Mining Industry* Indicators for Graham County, 2008 and 2009

	AVERAGE: QUARTERS 2, 3, 4 OF 2008, AND QUARTER 1 2009	QUARTER 1 2009 ONLY
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT		
Graham County	616	564
Greenlee County	3,220	2,819
Arizona	13,101	12,354
NET FLOW OF JOBS		
Graham County	-10	-97
Greenlee County	-65	-399
Arizona	8	-1,078
JOB CREATION		
Graham County	NA	NA
Greenlee County	NA	NA
Arizona	641	120
NEW HIRES		
Graham County	60	14
Greenlee County	269	12
Arizona	1,290	476
SEPARATIONS		
Graham County	71	112
Greenlee County	349	414
Arizona	1,467	1,618
TURNOVER		
Graham County	10.8%	12.8%
Greenlee County	7.3%	8.8%
Arizona	8.3%	8.5%
AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNINGS**		
Graham County	\$4,646	\$4,044
Greenlee County	\$4,567	\$4,199
Arizona	\$5,149	\$5,072
AVERAGE NEW HIRE EARNINGS**		
Graham County	\$4,466	\$4,139
Greenlee County	\$4,562	\$5,327
Arizona	\$4,600	\$4,459

Source: Arizona State, Department of Commerce, Arizona Workforce Informer, *LEHD State of Arizona County Reports - Quarterly Workforce Indicators*. Retrieved on May 13, 2010 from

<http://www.workforce.az.gov/led/qwi.htm>. *Data provided also includes quarrying and oil and gas extraction companies. **Average monthly earnings and average new hire earning amounts are rounded off to the nearest dollar.

The poverty, median income, unemployment, and key employment data presented above provide a picture of recent economic conditions in the Graham/ Greenlee Region. Information about participation in state and federal benefit programs can further enhance understanding of the economic environment of a community.

The federal and state governments offer a variety of assistance programs utilized by Graham/Greenlee Region residents. Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) is a program of the Office of Family Assistance of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that funds state efforts to provide financial assistance and work opportunities to needy families. Cash Assistance is a state program that provides temporary financial assistance and supportive services to low-income Arizona residents who are pregnant or responsible for a child under 19 years of age.

The table below shows that the number of Graham County family and children participants receiving TANF and Cash Assistance benefits decreased from January 2007 to 2008 and from January 2008 to 2009, and showed a marked decrease from January 2009 to 2010. In contrast, the number of Graham County families receiving Nutrition Assistance benefits shows a small (less than 2%) increase from 2,080 in January 2007 to 2,120 in January 2008, followed by a larger (13%) increase to 2,444 in January 2009 and an even greater (39%) increase to 3,999 in January 2010. As Nutrition Assistance benefits are income-tested, these large increases in the number of recipients suggest that many Graham County families have experienced economic difficulties and continue to do so in 2010.

Participation in Benefits Programs January 2007-2010 Graham County

PROGRAM	JANUARY 2007		JANUARY 2008		JANUARY 2009		JANUARY 2010	
	FAMILIES	CHILDREN	FAMILIES	CHILDREN	FAMILIES	CHILDREN	FAMILIES	CHILDREN
Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	278	574	227	496	221	482	152	351
Cash Assistance	253	554	200	469	203	462	144	341
General Assistance*	12	NA	6	NA	7	NA	NA	NA
Cash Assistance – Unemployed Parent Program	20	14	21	15	16	13	6	7
Nutrition Assistance (Food Stamps)	2,080	NA	2,120	NA	2,444	NA	3,999	3,290

Source: Arizona State, Department of Economic Security, *Statistical Bulletin* January 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010. Retrieved on June 8, 2010 from https://www.azdes.gov/DESsearch.aspx?q=Statistical+Bulletin&site=Reports&output=xml_no_dtd&sort=date%3AD%3AL%3Ad1&client=default_frontend&oe=UTF-8&ie=UTF-8&proxystylesheet=default_frontend. The number of families is the same as the number of cases. Cash Assistance refers to Arizona 1. Data are not reported for Cash Assistance or Cash Assistance recipients receiving under \$100. General Assistance data is for cases/persons. Nutrition Assistance data is not available for children in the January 2007, 2008, and 2009 editions of the Statistical Bulletin. There are no data for General Assistance in the January 2010 Statistical Bulletin.

For Greenlee County, the number of family and children participants receiving TANF and Cash Assistance benefits increased from January 2007 to 2008, then decreased from January 2008 to 2009, and from January 2009 to 2010. As with Graham County, however, the number of Greenlee County families receiving Nutrition Assistance benefits increased from 2007 to 2010. While there is a slight decrease from 267 in January 2007 to 238 in January 2008, the remaining time periods show increases in Nutrition Assistance utilization. There is a 30% increase from 238 in January 2008, to 341 in January 2009 followed by a larger (44%) increase to 612 in January 2010. Again, these large increases in the number of recipients suggest that many Greenlee County families have experienced economic difficulties and continue to do so in 2010.

Participation in Benefits Programs 2007-2010 Greenlee County

PROGRAM	JANUARY 2007		JANUARY 2008		JANUARY 2009		JANUARY 2010	
	FAMILIES	CHILDREN	FAMILIES	CHILDREN	FAMILIES	CHILDREN	FAMILIES	CHILDREN
Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)	18	63	31	84	17	50	13	46
Cash Assistance	18	57	29	80	15	48	11	44
General Assistance*	1	NA	4	NA	1	NA	NA	NA
Cash Assistance – Unemployed Parent Program	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)								
(Food Stamps)	267	NA	238	NA	341	NA	612	499

Source: Arizona State, Department of Economic Security, *Statistical Bulletin* January 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010. Retrieved on June 8, 2010 from https://www.azdes.gov/DESsearch.aspx?q=Statistical+Bulletin&site=Reports&output=xml_no_dtd&sort=date%3AD%3AL%3Ad1&client=default_frontend&oe=UTF-8&ie=UTF-8&proxystylesheet=default_frontend. The number of families is the same as the number of cases. Cash Assistance refers to Arizona 1. Data are not reported for Cash Assistance or Cash Assistance recipients receiving under \$100. General Assistance data is for cases/persons. Nutrition Assistance data is not available for children in the January 2007, 2008, and 2009 editions of the *Statistical Bulletin*. There are no data for General Assistance in the January 2010 Statistical Bulletin.

Data regarding the number of children 0-5 years old and families with children age 0-5 years old who are SNAP recipients provides additional insight into the economic status of Graham/Greenlee Region families with young children. Mirroring the SNAP data presented above for all families, the table below shows that the number of children 0-5 years old receiving nutrition assistance increased by 574 (56%) between January 2007 and January 2010. The increase in children receiving assistance from January 2009 to January 2010 (292 children, or 22%) shows that economic conditions in Graham County continue to be poor.

The number of Greenlee County children who are SNAP recipients has seen an even greater increase in recent years, almost doubling from 111 in January 2007 to 215 in January 2010. As in Graham County, a large (58%) increase in SNAP participants aged 0-5 from January 2009 to January 2010 indicates that the economy of Greenlee County still remains severely impacted by economic recession.

Beyond being a sign of economic stress in the region, the large increase in SNAP participation among 0-5 year olds over the last three years suggests that many young children in the region may be dependent on government programs to fulfill their basic nutritional needs.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Recipients, 2007 and 2009

	JAN-07		JUN-07		JAN-09		JUN-09		JAN-10	
	CHILDREN 0-5	FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-5	CHILDREN 0-5	FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-5	CHILDREN 0-5	FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-5	CHILDREN 0-5	FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-5	CHILDREN 0-5	FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-5
Graham County	1,021	697	989	670	1,304	864	1,518	1,002	1,596	1,039
Greenlee County	111	76	108	72	136	84	204	132	215	142
Arizona	134,697	88,171	139,170	91,054	179,831	119,380	199,367	133,148	215,837	145,657

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (provided by First Things First)

School lunch programs have traditionally been another means by which low-income children have been provided with nutritional supplementation. In most of the region's communities, 60% or more of school-going children are enrolled in a free or reduced school lunch program, as compared to 53% of children statewide. The communities with the highest percent of enrollment in the program are Ft. Thomas (100%), Bonita (83%), and Clifton (75%).

Percent of Children Enrolled in Free or Reduced School Lunch Program by Graham and Greenlee Locality, January 2008

COMMUNITIES	PERCENTAGE
GRAHAM COUNTY	
Pima	62%
Safford	63%
Thatcher	50%
Ft. Thomas	100%
Solomon	61%
Bonita	83%
GREENLEE COUNTY	
Clifton	75%
Duncan	62%
Morenci	40%
Arizona	53%

Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Data regarding enrollment in free or reduced lunch programs were submitted by Local Education Agencies.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a program of the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides grants to states primarily for supplemental foods for low-income pregnant and postpartum women and their children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. To qualify for WIC benefits a family's income must fall at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty line. Some studies of WIC programs suggest that it can have positive impacts on family well-being. For example, there is evidence that prenatal participation in WIC improves birth weight and fetal growth.¹⁹ In addition, given the program's focus on mothers and their young children and its low-income eligibility guidelines, WIC participation numbers may serve as another useful indicator of the economic conditions of the region's families with children under 5 years of age. According to WIC data from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, from 2005 to 2007, in a number of the region's communities, family enrollment increased while child enrollment decreased. In contrast, from 2007 to 2009 WIC enrollment of both families and children increased in most communities. Overall, from 2007 to 2009 enrollment of children grew by almost a third (32%) in Graham County from 679 to 893. In the Greenlee County, child enrollment grew by 22% from 135 to 164 over the same period. Communities with zip codes with the largest percent increases in child enrollment from 2007 to 2009 include Thatcher (59%), Clifton (45%), and Ft. Thomas (40%). The zip code with the largest number of children added to WIC in that two-year period was 85546 in Safford, which increased by 34% from 405 to 541.

19 Kowalski-Jones, L., & Duncan, G.J. (2002). Effects of participation in the WIC program on birth weight: Evidence from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92(5), 799-804.

Enrollment of Women and Children in WIC Program by Graham and Greenlee County Zip Codes, 2005, 2007, and 2009

	2005		2007		2009	
	WOMEN	CHILDREN	WOMEN	CHILDREN	WOMEN	CHILDREN
GRAHAM COUNTY	368	790	407	679	469	893
85530 (Bylas)	4	8	9	18	10	13
85531 (Central)	5	7	8	12	6	17
85535 (Eden)	6	19	10	19	20	21
85536 (Ft. Thomas)	4	7	1	6	7	10
85543 (Pima)	54	111	38	92	50	97
85546 (Safford)	219	481	244	405	282	541
85548 (Safford)	2	7	2	4	5	8
85551 (Solomon)	11	23	7	16	6	16
85552 (Thatcher)	63	127	88	107	83	170
GREENLEE COUNTY	80	143	86	135	107	164
85533 (Clifton)	22	41	25	42	41	61
85533 (Duncan)	22	52	28	49	33	56
85540 (Morenci)	36	50	33	44	33	47
ARIZONA	46,409	87,859	52,069	90,261	60,522	111,777

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2005, 2007, 2009). Arizona Women, Infants & Children data pulled April 22, 2010 Database (Unpublished Data). All data are from June of the indicated years.

Data from the Arizona Department of Economic Security show that in almost all of the region's zip codes the number of residents receiving unemployment benefits increased in each consecutive reported period from January 2007 to January 2010. In many zip codes, the number of claimants grew by an extraordinary 7 to 10 times over that period of time.

Unemployment Insurance Claimants by Graham and Greenlee County Zip Codes, 2007, 2009, and 2010

	JANUARY 2007	JUNE 2007	JANUARY 2009	JUNE 2009	JANUARY 2010
GRAHAM COUNTY	101	150	708	1,241	1,311
85032	-	-	1	1	-
85224	-	-	1	1	-
85373	-	-	-	2	2
85392	-	-	-	1	-
85530	11	21	68	97	106
85531	1	-	8	17	16
85532	-	-	-	1	-
85533	-	-	-	1	1
85534	-	-	1	2	2
85535	-	-	2	2	1
85536	2	2	4	10	13
85540	-	-	-	1	3
85542	7	8	8	24	23
85543	9	7	63	115	123
85546	47	75	358	666	717
85548	11	13	52	85	78
85550	1	3	8	13	13
85551	4	5	28	36	46
85552	7	15	102	161	162
85602	1	-	-	-	-
85641	-	-	-	1	1
85643	-	-	3	4	4
85712	-	-	1	1	-
GREENLEE COUNTY	22	24	206	468	491
85015	-	1	-	-	-
85017	1	-	-	-	-
85308	-	-	1	1	
85344	1	-	-	-	-
85354	-	-	-	-	1
85533	7	7	73	164	167
85534	9	10	87	140	154
85540	4	6	44	159	164
85548	-	-	-	1	1
85644	-	-	-	1	1
85716	-	-	-	1	1
85741	-	-	-	1	1
ARIZONA	22,588	30,271	87,370	146,487	183,994

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (supplied by First Things First)

Dashes indicate zero.

The TANF data for Graham County presented above show that the number of families with children receiving TANF increased by successively larger percents over the three-year period reported. The number grew by less than 2% from January 2007 to January 2008, by 13% from January 2008 to January 2009, and by 39% from January 2009 to January 2010.

However, examination of TANF data by zip code for families with children under 5 years of age shows no steady pattern, with the number of participating families sometimes increasing and at other times decreasing. It should be noted that the largest percentage decrease (14%) in TANF enrollments of this population occurred between June 2009 and January 2010. Bylas (zip code 85530) and Safford (zip code 85546) had the largest number of TANF families with children age 0-5 over the three-year period, although the number of families in Safford has steadily decreased over the last four reported periods.

The number of families with children age 0-5 receiving TANF benefits in Greenlee County has moved up and down several times over the last three years, but remains small over the three-year period.

TANF Families with Children Age 0-5 by Graham and Greenlee County Zip Codes, 2007, 2009, and 2010

	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010
GRAHAM COUNTY	153	154	139	143	123
85530	57	55	54	59	62
85531	2	2	1	2	1
85536	2	1	0	1	0
85543	11	11	17	15	7
85546	70	72	57	55	48
85551	5	7	0	3	1
85552	6	6	9	8	4
GREENLEE	14	20	14	18	15
85533	4	2	3	8	6
85534	8	15	6	7	6
85540	2	3	5	3	3
ARIZONA	16,511	15,527	18,477	18,045	18,129

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009, 2010). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data). Zip codes that had fewer than 5 families with children 0-5 receiving TANF in all of the reported months are not included in the table. A dash indicates there were fewer than 5 families with children 0-5 receiving TANF in the zip code for the month.

TANF Children Age 0-5 by Graham and Greenlee County Zip Codes, 2007, 2009, and 2010

	JAN. 2007	JUNE 2007	JAN. 2009	JUNE 2009	JAN. 2010
GRAHAM	171	169	169	165	142
85530	63	60	60	68	72
85542	90	81	112	115	125
85543	14	15	22	16	9
85546	75	77	73	65	54
85550	124	118	122	141	151
85551	7	8	0	4	1
85552	8	6	12	8	5
GREENLEE	16	25	18	23	21
85533	4	3	4	9	8
85534	10	19	8	10	8
85540	2	3	6	4	5
ARIZONA	20,867	19,646	24,273	23,746	23,866

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009, 2010). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data). Zip codes that had fewer than 5 families with children 0-5 receiving TANF in all of the reported months are not included in the table. A dash indicates there were fewer than 5 families with children 0-5 receiving TANF in the zip code for the month.

Families in the Graham/Greenlee Region access special services for children with developmental disabilities from the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Divisions of Developmental Disabilities. The number of children ages 0-2.9 receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities services went down in both Graham County and Greenlee County from 2007 to 2009. In contrast, the number of children ages 3 to 5.9 went up slightly over the same period of time. In the two years reported, residents in both small and large communities in the region utilized these services for young children. Recent state budget cuts, however, may reduce the availability of such services to families throughout the state.

Count of Consumers Receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services by Age and Graham and Greenlee County Zip Code, 2007 and 2009

	AGES 0-2.9		AGES 3-5.9	
	2007	2009	2007	2009
GRAHAM COUNTY	26	17	9	10
85530	3	-	-	1
85531	-	1	-	-
85536	1	1	-	-
85543	5	4	1	6
85546	12	8	6	2
85548	-	-	-	-
85551	2	2	-	1
85552	3	1	2	-
GREENLEE COUNTY	4	2	1	2
85533	1	-	-	1
85540	3	2	1	1
ARIZONA*	4,983	5,203	3,579	3,773

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (supplied by First Things First) *Arizona totals include data for which the county of residence was unknown.

IV. Educational Indicators

Research suggests that education provides women with a variety of resources that can have implications for the educational progress of their youth. For example, some studies suggest that women who are more educated place their children in child care environments that tend to promote school readiness, more than less well-educated peers. In addition, maternal education may account for some of the variance in school readiness, vocabulary, and IQ among children and appears to be tied to child communication ability, perhaps through indirect methods such as increased reading per week by educated mothers. While it is not yet clear how important this factor of maternal education is to overall youth academic attainment and general well-being, these findings suggest that it is important to consider when assessing the needs and assets of a region.

Educational Attainment

From 2004 to 2008 the educational level of mothers in Graham County followed an irregular pattern, moving up in some years and down in others. The general trend in high school graduation has been positive, with 47% of mothers having a diploma in 2008 as compared with 36% in 2004. However, the percentage of mothers with 1-4 years of college was lower in both 2007 and 2008 than in the preceding three years.

The percentage of mothers who graduated from high school was higher in Graham County than in the state as a whole in all five of the reported years, but state percentages for mothers who have completed at least one year of college was higher statewide in those same years.

In Greenlee County, a positive trend from 2004-2006 of decreasing percentages of mothers without a high school diploma reversed in 2006 and 2008, with the percentage in 2008 (24%) reverting to what it had been in 2004. However, in all of the reported five years Greenlee County had a higher percent of mothers who had had graduated high school than did the state.

It remains a concerning fact that in most of the years from 2004-2008 in both Graham County and Greenlee County, 20% or more of mothers lacked a high school diploma.

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- 20 Davis-Kean, P. (2005). The influence of parental education and family income on child achievement: the indirect role of parent expectations and the home environment. *Journal of Family Psychology* 19(2):294-304.
 - 21 Fewell, R. & Deutscher, B. (2003) Contributions of early language and maternal facilitation variables to later language and reading abilities. *Journal of Early Intervention*, 26, 1322-145.
 - 22 Arterberry, M., Bornstein, M., Midgett, C., Putnick, D., & Bornstein M. (2007). Early attention and literacy experiences predict adaptive communication. *First Language*. Sage Publications 27;175.

Percentage of Live Births by Educational Attainment of Mother

Graham County

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No High School Diploma	26%	18%	24%	25%	22%
High School Diploma	36%	42%	43%	48%	47%
1-4+ yrs. of College	38%	39%	34%	28%	32%
Unknown	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%

Greenlee County

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No High School Diploma	24%	20%	16%	19%	24%
High School Diploma	52%	48%	57%	57%	51%
1-4+ yrs. of College	23%	30%	26%	23%	24%
Unknown	2%	1%	0	<1%	<1%

Arizona

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No High School Diploma	30%	29%	29%	28%	26%
High School Diploma	29%	29%	30%	30%	30%
1-4+ yrs. of College	40%	41%	41%	41%	43%
Unknown	2%	1%	1%	1%	<1%

United States

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No High School Diploma	17%	14%	10%	NA	NA
High School Diploma	24%	20%	15%	NA	NA
1-4+ yrs. of College	38%	33%	25%	NA	NA
Unknown	21%	32%	50%	NA	NA

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Arizona Vital Statistics, 2004-2008, *Births by Mother's Education and County of Residence, Arizona* (Table 5B-13) 2004-2008. Retrieved on June 3, 2011 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/menu/for/births.htm>; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Division of Vital Statistics, Natality public-use data 2003-2006, CDC WONDER Online Database, March 2009. Retrieved on June 3, 2010 from <http://wonder.cdc.gov/natality-current.html>. Percents do not total to 100% due to rounding off. CDC data includes the following categories for mother's education: 0-8 years, 9-11 years, 12 years, 13-15 years, 16 years and over, not stated, and not on certificate. For the purposes of the table above, data for 0-8 and 9-11 have been added together to make "No High School Diploma." Data for 12 years has been entered for "High School Diploma." Data for 13-15 years has been entered for "1-4+ yrs. of College." Data for not stated and not on certificate have been added together to make "Unknown." The following states had mother's educational data coded to "not on certificate": 2004 - Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New York excluding New York City, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Washington

2005 - Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York excluding New York City, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Washington 2006 - California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York excluding New York City, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming

No data was available for the U.S. for 2006 and 2007.

American Community Survey data for the educational attainment of adults 25 years of age and older is available for Graham County but not for Greenlee County. The available data shows that adult educational attainment in Graham County compares favorably with the state at some levels of schooling but not others. Graham County had a higher percentage of adults 25 years and older who were high school graduates or who had some college experience. On the other hand, its percent of adults without a high school diploma was higher than that of the state as a whole, and it lags noticeably behind the state in residents' attainment of a Bachelor's Degree or graduate degree. A region's degree of attainment of higher education is an important factor in its capacity to provide high quality early childhood services.

Educational Attainment, Adults 25 Years and Older, Three Year Average 2006-2008

	NOT A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	SOME COLLEGE	ASSOCIATES DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
Graham County	19%	34%	25%	8%	9%	5%
Greenlee County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Arizona	16%	26%	24%	8%	16%	9%
United States	16%	30%	20%	7%	17%	10%

Source: U.S. Census 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, *Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2006-2008*. Retrieved May 25, 2010 from http://factfinder.dads.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=true&-caller=geoselect&-geo_id=05000US04009&-format=&-_lang=en; http://factfinder.dads.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=false&-caller=geoselect&-geo_id=04000US04&-format=&-_lang=en; http://factfinder.dads.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-context=adp&-qr_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2008_3YR_G00_&-tree_id=3308&-redoLog=false&-caller=geoselect&-geo_id=01000US&-format=&-_lang=en High school graduation rate included graduation equivalents. Percents do not total to 100% due to rounding off.

Literacy

As national focus is placed on assessment of academic progress and educational quality throughout the education system, increasing attention is also being paid to school readiness. School readiness is widely considered to include both academic skills (such as mathematics and reading) as well as the social and behavioral skills needed to effectively interact with peers and teachers and to participate in unstructured and structured activities.^{23 24} It has been defined by some sources as the "minimum developmental levels children need to exhibit to respond adequately to the demands of schooling."²⁵ In addition, most scholarly definitions about school readiness also address the need for the school to be ready to meet the instructional, social and personal needs of every child who enters kindergarten. The difficulty comes in attempting to quantify and measure these comprehensive ideas of readiness. The field continues to struggle with these concepts, and in Arizona, there is no single, agreed upon definition or measurement approach to school readiness.

Many assessments have been developed to look at children's growth across developmental domains such as language, social-emotional development, physical development, and behavior. Currently, such assessments can only serve as proxy measures of school readiness. In school settings throughout Arizona, these assessments are most often used to screen for children who may be in need of additional educational supports. Some school districts also use such assessments to gather

23 Heavyside, S., & Farris, E. (1993). *Public school kindergarten teacher's views of children's readiness for school*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

24 Rimm-Kaufman, S.E., Pianta, R. & Cox, M. (2000). Teacher's judgments of success in the transition to kindergarten. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 15, 147-166.

25 Justice, L., Bowles, R., Pence Turnbull, K., & Skibbe, L. (2009). School readiness among children with varying histories of language difficulties. *Developmental Psychology*. Vol. 45, No. 2, 460-476.

an initial understanding of children's development as they enter preschool to best design programming and instruction.

Two instruments that are used frequently across Arizona schools for formative (ongoing and used to guide instruction) assessment are the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) and Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). These two assessments are often used to identify children's early literacy skills upon entry to school and to identify the need for interventions in reading throughout the year. At the kindergarten level DIBELS and AIMS test only a small set of skills around letter knowledge without assessing other areas of children's language and literacy development such as vocabulary and print awareness. Additionally, neither the DIBELS nor the AIMS measure other important skill sets around social emotional development, math, or science. While the results of the DIBELS and AIMS assessments do not reflect children's full range of skills and understanding in the area of language and literacy, they do provide a snapshot of children's learning as they enter and exit kindergarten. Unfortunately, only 3rd grade AIMS data is available for Graham and Greenlee Counties. This data shows that there is great variation by district on this indicator, which suggests varying levels of school readiness and academic progress in Graham County and Greenlee County.

Kindergarten readiness is important to consider as research studies have found that participation by low-income children in early intervention programs prior to kindergarten is related to improved school performance in the early years of education.²⁶ Long-term studies suggest that early childhood programs have positive impacts evident in the adolescent and adult years.²⁷ Lastly research has confirmed that early childhood education enhances young children's social developmental outcomes such as peer relationships.²⁸

The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) is a set of short assessment procedures used to measure early literacy skills in children in kindergarten to sixth grade. The goal of administering DIBELS is to identify children with low levels of early literacy skills and offer them proactive assistance in raising those levels. In 2007, in most districts in the region more than 60% of kindergarten students fell below the DIBELS benchmark. This suggests there is a tremendous need in Graham/Greenlee Region for additional early literacy services.

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- 26 Lee, V. E., Brooks-Gunn, J., Shnur, E., & Liaw, F. R. Are Head Start effects sustained? A longitudinal follow-up comparison of disadvantaged children attending Head Start, no preschool, and other preschool programs. *Child Development*, 61, 1990, 495-507; National Research Council and Institute Medicine, *From neurons to neighborhoods: The science of early childhood development*; Reynolds, A. J. Effects of a preschool plus follow up intervention for children at risk. *Developmental Psychology*, 30, 1994, 787-804.
- 27 Campbell, F. A., Pungello, E. P., Miller-Johnson, S., Burchinal, M., & Ramey, C.T. The development of cognitive and academic abilities; Growth curves from an early childhood educational experiment. *Developmental Psychology*, 37, 2001, 231-242.
- 28 Peisner-Feinberg, E. S., Burchinal, M. R., Clifford, R. M., Culkin, M. L., Howes, C., Kagan, S. L., et al. *The children of the cost, quality, and outcomes study go to school: Technical report*, 2000, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center.

Basic Early Literacy as Measured By DIBELS 2007

SCHOOL DISTRICT	NUMBER IN KINDERGARTEN	NUMBER TESTED	NUMBER BELOW BENCHMARK	PERCENT BELOW BENCHMARK	NUMBER AT OR ABOVE BENCH	PERCENT AT OR ABOVE BENCH
Bonita	6	6	6	100%	0	0
Clifton*	12	0	NA	NA	NA	NA
Duncan	21	22	9	41%	13	59%
Ft. Thomas	6	6	5	83%	1	17%
Morenci	86	81	23	28%	58	72%
Pima	53	47	34	72%	13	28%
Safford	273	266	214	80%	52	29%
Solomon	28	28	19	68%	9	32%
Thatcher	101	97	86	89%	11	11%
TOTAL	586	553	396	72%	157	28%

Source: Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Data regarding DIBELS were submitted by Local Education Agencies in fall, 2007. *Clifton did not administer DIBELS in August, 2007.

Data regarding developmental indicator benchmarks adds to DIBELS data to create a picture of school readiness in the region. The most interesting of this data is that which shows one district being far ahead or far behind others in one of the three benchmarks (motor, concepts, and language) measured, although the reasons for such large variation are not know. Most of the kindergarten students tested met the motor benchmark. In three districts (Bonita, Ft. Thomas, and Morenci) only approximately one third of the students met the concepts benchmark, although twice as many did so in Pima. The variability for the percent of students that met the language benchmark was even more striking, ranging from 8% in Ft. Thomas to 55% in Morenci. The percent of kindergarten students that met the cumulative benchmark ranged from 40% in Ft. Thomas to 67% in Bonita. This data suggests that some communities lag far behind in areas such as language ability that are essential to school success. Examination of more recent developmental indicator data is warranted.

Number of Kindergarten Students Meeting Developmental Indicators Benchmarks, Spring 2006

COMMUNITY	MOTOR MET BENCHMARK		CONCEPTS MET BENCHMARK		LANGUAGE MET BENCHMARK		TOTAL MET BENCHMARK	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Bonita	5 of 6	83%	2 of 6	33%	1 of 6	17%	4 of 6	67%
Ft. Thomas	21 of 25	84%	9 of 25	36%	2 of 25	8%	10 of 25	40%
Morenci	20 Of 29	69%	10 of 29	34%	16 of 29	55%	16 of 29	55%
Pima	—	—	29 of 44	66%	—	—	—	—
Safford	—	—	—	—	—	—	59 of 129	46%
Thatcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	43 of 67	64%
TOTAL	46 OF 60	77%	50 OF 104	48%	19 OF 60	32%	132 OF 256	52%

Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Results are reported for children who were registered at the spring 2006 Kindergarten Roundup. The percent of students assessed in each district ranged from 31-74%. Bonita, Ft. Thomas, and Morenci used the Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL), Safford and Thatcher administered Speed Dial, and Pima administered the Concepts subtest. Results for Clifton, which used an older version of DIAL, are not reported. Duncan and Solomon do not administer a developmental assessment to incoming kindergarten students.

Two of the largest groups of students with special educational needs are English Language Learners (ELL) and those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Schools are required to develop an IEP for students with disabilities who meet government requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Community-level data show that while ELL and IEP kindergarten students are relatively dispersed throughout the region, their greatest concentration is in Safford, the region's largest population center.

Kindergarten Students Special Educational Needs Characteristics 2007

SCHOOL DISTRICT	NUMBER IN KINDERGARTEN	NUMBER ELL	PERCENT ELL	NUMBER IEP	PERCENT IEP
Bonita	6	3	50%	0	0
Clifton	12	1	8%	3	25%
Duncan	21	2	10%	4	19%
Ft. Thomas	6	0	0	1	17%
Morenci	86	2	2%	6	7%
Pima	53	1	2%	0	0%
Safford	273	15	5%	24	9%
Solomon	28	0	0	1	4%
Thatcher	101	0	0	2	2%
TOTAL	586	24	4%	41	7%

Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Data were submitted by Local Education Agencies in winter, 2008

Standardized Test Scores

AIMS tests use a four-level scale to measure student performance, with *Falls Far Below (FFB)* as the lowest performance level followed by *Approached (A)*, *Met (M)*, and *Exceeded (E)* indicating progressively increasing proficiency. Both *Falls Far Below (FFB)* and *Approached (A)* represent failing scores. The chart below shows that in 2009 there was great variation by school district in the performance of the region's 3rd grade students on the AIMS mathematics, reading, and writing exams. For example, in Thatcher Unified School District 87% of the students passed the mathematics exam, 87% passed the reading exam, and 91% passed the writing exam. In contrast, in Fort Thomas Unified District 47% of the students passed the mathematics exam, 54% passed the reading exam, and 46% passed the writing exam. Of the 7 districts for which 2009 AIMS data are available, 30% or more of the students failed the mathematics exam in three districts, the reading exam in three districts, and the writing exam in one district.

AIMS 3rd Grade Score Achievement Levels in Mathematics, Reading and Writing By School District, 2009

	MATHEMATICS				READING				WRITING			
	FFB	A	M	E	FFB	A	M	E	FFB	A	M	E
Duncan Unified	3%	19%	68%	10%	3%	19%	68%	10%	0	13%	87%	0
Fort Thomas Unified	4%	50%	35%	12%	8%	38%	50%	4%	4%	50%	46%	0
Morenci Unified	1%	13%	58%	28%	2%	20%	60%	18%	1%	10%	84%	4%
Pima Unified	11%	28%	46%	15%	8%	24%	55%	12%	1%	27%	72%	0
Safford Unified	4%	27%	60%	9%	4%	26%	61%	9%	4%	23%	69%	3%
Solomon Unified	0	6%	65%	29%	0	12%	76%	12%	0	6%	94%	0
Thatcher Unified	2%	11%	52%	35%	2%	11%	65%	22%	2%	7%	86%	5%
STATEWIDE	9%	18%	52%	20%	6%	22%	58%	14%	4%	17%	73%	6%

Source: Arizona State, Department of Education, Accountability Division, Research and Evaluation Section, 2009 *AIMS Results*. Retrieved on May 27, 2010 from <http://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/>. NA is used when data have not been published to protect student privacy in districts in which fewer than 10 students took the exam. The four achievement levels and their abbreviations used in the table are: Falls Far Below the Standard (FFB), Approaches the Standard (A), Meets the Standard (M), Exceeds the Standard (E). Data provided in the table show what percentage of students who took an AIMS test achieved each of the four grade levels. No data were available for Bonita Elementary District in Graham County and Blue Elementary District in Greenlee County because the state does not release AIMS scores in situations in which the small number of students taking the test would create confidentiality issues.

Other Relevant Data

The completion of high school is a very important accomplishment in a young person's life. Students who stay in school and challenge themselves academically tend to continue their education, stay out of jail, and earn significantly higher wages later in their lives.²⁹ Other research suggests that students who do not graduate have higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.³⁰ Given these realities about the importance of graduation, the high school graduation rate in an area should be considered when looking at local needs and assets. Findings have implications for all aspects of early childhood development, from child care and health care services up through the education system, as many factors contribute to whether or not a youth is able to complete high school. Students who have the support, resources, and care they need to be able to develop and eventually complete high school are then more likely to go on to have long-term positive life outcomes.

Graham/Greenlee Region's high school graduation rates vary widely both longitudinally within schools and between schools. From 2004 to 2007, a movement of 10% in the graduation rate in a single year was common for many schools. For example, the rate at Clifton High School was 100% in 2004, 82% in 2005, and 53% in 2007. In a single year, 2007, high school graduation rates in Graham/Greenlee Region ranged from 47% for Mt. Graham High School to 93% for Morenci Junior/Senior High School. The majority of schools had graduation rates of 85% or better for most or all of the four years reported upon. Mt. Graham High School stands out from all of the other schools for having a graduation rate under 50% throughout the period.

High School Graduation Rates, 2004-2007

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Clifton High School	100%	82%	-	53%
Duncan High School	84%	87%	69%	91%
Ft. Thomas High School	71%	85%	0	74%
Mt. Graham High School	39%	39%	39%	47%
Morenci Junior/Senior High School	93%	89%	85%	93%
Pima Junior/Senior High School	100%	92%	86%	83%
Safford High School	88%	93%	87%	88%
Thatcher High School	97%	92%	92%	89%

Source: Arizona Department of Education, Accountability Division, Research & Evaluation Section, *2007 Four Year Grad Rate by School, Subgroup and Ethnicity*; *2006 Four Year Grad Rate by District, School and Subgroup*; *2005 Four Year Grad Rate by District, School and Subgroup*; *2004 Five Year Grad Rate Data by School*. Retrieved on June 22, 2010 from <http://www.ade.state.az.us/researchpolicy/>. The 2004 data set includes 4-year graduation rates. NA indicates a school was not listed in that year's data set. *No numerical data were supplied for Clifton High School for 2006.

29 Sigelman, C. K., & Rider, E. A., *Life-span development*, 2003, Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth.

30 U.S. Department of Labor. (2003). *So you're thinking of dropping out of high school*. Retrieved December 6, 2006 from <http://www.dol.gov/asp/fibre/dropout.htm>.

The Early Childhood System: Detailed Descriptions of the Regional Assets and Needs in the Areas of Early Care and Education, Supporting Families, Health, and Public Awareness & Collaboration.

I. Early Care Education

There is a need for child care across the United States as a majority of children ages birth to six years of age participate in regular, nonparent child care.³¹ Families use many criteria to make decisions about care for their children. Some of the factors that are often important to parents include: cost; proximity to home or work; and recommendations from friends, family or acquaintances. Parents may also personally assess the center or home's environment, interaction between children and staff, and perceived quality of learning environment. A nationwide study by the National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies found that the cost of child care was one of parents' highest concerns and noted that parents frequently had to compromise on quality to be able to pay for care.³² It is clear that choosing child care is not a simple decision for many families, and may or may not result in the placement of a child in the most ideal child care setting.

Poor quality child care is a national concern as research has concluded that the quality of care can impact cognitive and language skill development, among other considerations.^{33 34} Many states are making efforts to improve the quality of child care options that are available and improve access to high quality centers and homes for families. Promotion and support for national licensing and accreditation are some of the ways in which states are encouraging centers to improve their quality, and encouraging families to select quality care options for their families. Professional development and education levels of staff are also important elements of child care quality. Many child care providers, however, face barriers to pursuing accreditation and professional development for their staff, including low wages and lack of benefits for their providers. One study of 414 child care providers in Wisconsin, found that 77% were neither accredited nor working toward accreditation. The primary reasons they gave were that accreditation is too expensive and unnecessary.³⁵ Many researchers, however, have concluded that, at least to some degree, quality of child care centers does matter³⁶ and so is worth additional research and support.

31 Federal interagency forum on child and family statistics. *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being*, 2002. Washington DC.

32 Mohan, E., Reef, G., & Sarkar, M. (2006). Breaking the piggy bank—Parents and the high price of child care. Arlington, VA: National Association of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies.

33 Lamb, M. (1998). Nonparental child care: Context, quality, correlates, and consequences. In I. Sigel & A. Renninger (Eds.), W. Damon (Series Ed.), *Handbook of child psychology: Vol 4. Child psychology in practice* (5th ed. Pp. 73-133). New York: Wiley.

34 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Early Child Care Research Network and Duncan, G. J. (2003, Sept/Oct). Modeling the impacts of child care quality on children's preschool cognitive development. *Child Development*. Vol. 74, No. 5, pp. 1454-1475.

35 Public Policy Forum (2008, May). Child-care provider survey reveals cost constrains quality. *Public Policy Forum Research Brief*. Vol. 96, Number 5.

36 Gormley, W.T. (2007). Early childhood care and education: Lessons and puzzles. In Besharov, D.J. (Ed.) *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. (Policy Retrospectives) Vol. 26, No. 3, 633-671.

In Arizona, increased efforts have been undertaken to improve child care quality. The Board of First Things First approved funding in March 2008 for the development and implementation of a statewide quality improvement and rating system. Named *Quality First!*, this system, which took effect in 2010, set standards of quality for Arizona. It assists families and community members, as well as providers, in identifying what quality child care looks like and which providers offer quality care. This system will become a statewide asset upon which regions can build when addressing quality. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council participates in the Quality First initiative.

The following sections detail current indicators pertaining to child care quality and access, as well as professional development of child care staff, in the Graham/Greenlee Region.

A. Quality and Access

Accredited Early Care and Education Centers/Homes

There is one nationally accredited early care and education center in the Graham/Greenlee Region, down from two in 2008. The accredited center represents 8.3% of the region's 12 licensed centers, somewhat lower than the statewide rate of 10.7%. The region's one accredited center is in Safford, the largest population center of the region, therefore many parents in the area lack access to an accredited center.

Number of Accredited Early Care and Education Centers

	AMI/AMS	ASCI	NAC	NAEYC	NECPA	NAFCC*	NLSA
2008	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
2010	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Sources: Accreditation lists on the websites of the Association Montessori Internationale [AMI], American Montessori Society (AMS), Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI), National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs (NAC), National Association for the Education of Young Children NAEYC, National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), and National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/poptopics/nationalaccred.html>

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services' Division of Licensing, in February 2010 there were a total of 12 licensed child care facilities in Graham/Greenlee Region. Eight of the licensed facilities were child care centers, with a capacity of 543 children. Four of the licensed facilities were child care centers located in public schools and together had a capacity of 181 children. No small group homes in the region were licensed. The region's licensed facilities had a combined capacity of 543 children. The largest percentage (63%) of this capacity was in Safford, followed by Clifton (25%), Morenci (23%), Duncan (12%), and Pima (11%). It is worth noting that Safford's percent (63%) of the region's ADHS-licensed child care capacity far exceeds its percent (22%) of the region's estimated 2008 population. The data suggests that some areas of the region lack ADHS-licensed facilities, and efforts to promote increased licensing are warranted.

ADHS-Licensed Child Care Facilities, 2010

	CHILD CARE CENTERS		CHILD CARE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS		SMALL GROUP HOMES	
	NO. OF CENTERS	CAPACITY	NO. OF CENTERS	CAPACITY	NO. OF CENTERS	CAPACITY
GRAHAM COUNTY						
Pima	1	59	0	0	0	0
Safford	4	275	2	66	0	0
GREENLEE COUNTY						
Clifton	1	100	1	34	0	0
Duncan	1	64	0	0	0	0
Morenci	1	45	1	81	0	0

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Division of Licensing Services, Provider Databases, *Child Care Facilities 2/1/2010*. Retrieved on March 17, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/als/databases/sr-dc.txt>.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security groups Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, and Santa Cruz Counties together in District VI of its statewide planning areas. Data regarding rates charged for full-time care in 2008 at DES approved homes shows that the rates which 75% of the facilities in District VI charged for full-time child care ranged from \$24 for school age children to \$30 per day for children under one.

Arizona District VI Rates Charged by Homes for Full-time (6 or More Hours) Child Care

	CHILDREN UNDER 1	1 AND 2 YEAR OLDS	3, 4, AND 5 YEAR OLDS	SCHOOL AGE
Median	\$29.00	\$25.20	\$24.00	\$19.00
75%*	\$30.00	\$27.40	\$26.00	\$24.00

Source: Arizona State, Department of Economic Security, Division of Employment and Rehabilitation Services, Child Care Administration, *Child Care Market Rate Survey 2008, Table 4: Approved Homes Average Rate Charged by Homes for Full-time (6 or More Hours) Child Care*. All data are for District 6 of the Statewide Planning Areas, which includes Graham, Greenlee, Cochise, Santa Cruz Counties. *The rate at which 75% of the market is at or below.

The Child Care Administration Office of the Arizona Department of Economic Security assists eligible families with child care costs. Eligibility is in part income-based. The State of Arizona started turning away eligible families and placing them on a waiting list in February 2009. This waiting list has continued and will most likely remain in place through at least June 2011.

In Graham County, the number of families in the region eligible for child care assistance has decreased 42% from 182 in January 2009 to 105 in January 2010. The number of families receiving child care assistance showed a smaller (20%) decrease over the same period, dropping from 109 in January 2009 to 87 in January 2010. The number of children in those families receiving child care assistance dropped from 206 to 116, a 44% decrease. This compares with a 39% decrease in both the number of families and the number of children receiving child care assistance statewide over the same period of time.

In Greenlee County, the number of families in the region eligible for child care assistance has decreased 39% from 18 in January 2009 to 11 in January 2010. The number of families receiving child care assistance showed a greater (44%) decrease over the same period, dropping from 18 in January 2009 to 10 in January 2010. The number of children in those families receiving child care assistance dropped from 29 to 19, a 34% decrease. This compares with a 39% decrease in both the number of families and the number of children receiving child care assistance statewide over the period of time.

Number of Families and Children Eligible and Receiving Child Care Assistance

	JANUARY 2009		JUNE 2009		JANUARY 2010	
	NUMBER OF FAMILIES ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF FAMILIES ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF FAMILIES ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING
Graham County	182/109	262/206	135/108	199/153	105/87	150/116
Greenlee County	18/18	31/29	17/15	27/24	11/10	23/19
	26,280/	37,988/	20,736/	30,209/	15,842/	23,183/
Arizona	21,378	29,011	17,155	24,184	13,014	17,856

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009, 2010). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Examination of child care assistance data by Graham County and Greenlee County zip codes reveals a decrease from January 2009 to January 2010 in the number of families and children receiving child care assistance in all areas of the region. Some areas in which a large number of families and children were served at the beginning of the period had particularly large decreases. For example, in the area of Safford classified as zip code 85546 the number of families and children receiving assistance decreased by 37% and 38%, respectively. In Morenci's zip code 85540, the number of families receiving assistance decreased by 64% over the period, while the number of children receiving assistance decreased by 44%.

Number of Families and Children Eligible and Receiving Child Care Assistance by Zip Code

	JANUARY 2009		JUNE 2009		JANUARY 2010	
ZIP CODE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF FAMILIES ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF FAMILIES ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE/RECEIVING
GRAHAM COUNTY	182/109	262/206	135/108	199/153	105/87	150/116
85530	15/13	23/20	9/7	17/13	5/5	8/6
85531	3/3	4/4	3/3	4/4	2/2	3/2
85536	2/1	2/1	1/1	1/1	-	-
85543	14/11	21/16	13/7	17/10	11/10	14/13
85546	91/75	139/108	65/56	106/84	56/47	85/67
85548	12/10	15/13	7/7	8/8	3/3	4/4
85551	7/5	14/8	5/5	8/8	4/3	6/4
85552	35/30	41/36	31/21	38/25	21/15	26/18
GREENLEE COUNTY	18/18	31/29	17/15	27/24	11/10	23/19
85533	5/4	10/8	5/5	9/9	5/4	9/6
85540	11/11	17/16	9/8	12/11	4/4	10/9
ARIZONA	26,280/ 21,378	37,988/29,011	20,736/17,155	30,209/24,184	15,842/13,014	23,183/17,856

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009, 2010). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data). *These cells were blank on the FTF spreadsheet from which data were extracted. A dash in a cell indicates no data was included for the zip code for that month on the spread sheet provided by FTF.

Arizona Department of Economic Security child care assistance data for 2009 shows that the percent of families and children receiving child care assistance in the region is lower than the percent eligible. In Graham County, 88% of the families and 84% of the children eligible for child care assistance received it. In Greenlee County, 89% of both the families and children eligible for child care assistance received it. This compares with statewide rates of 84% and 79% respectively, for families and children.

Families and Children Eligible for and Receiving Child Care Assistance January 2009 – December 2009

	NUMBER OF FAMILIES ELIGIBLE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES RECEIVING	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING
Graham County	232	204	468	392
Greenlee County	27	24	73	65
Arizona	35,369	29,514	68,950	54,116

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2009). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data).

Number of Families and Children Eligible and Receiving Child Care Assistance by Zip Code, January 2009 – December 2009

ZIP CODE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES ELIGIBLE	NUMBER OF FAMILIES RECEIVING	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ELIGIBLE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING
GRAHAM COUNTY	232	204	468	392
85530	17	17	41	41
85531	3	3	4	4
85536	1	1	1	1
85543	15	15	33	33
85546	110	110	214	214
85548	12	12	16	16
85551	6	6	16	16
85552	40	40	69	69
GREENLEE COUNTY	27	24	73	65
85533	8	8	20	20
85540	12	12	37	37
ARIZONA	35,369	29,514	68,950	54,116

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2009). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from Database (Unpublished Data). Cells with a dash were blank on the FTF spreadsheet from which data were extracted.

B. Professional Development

Professional development and education levels of staff are considered important elements of child care quality. According to the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, teachers who have good preparation in early childhood education are: Prepared to apply knowledge of child development, use appropriate teaching strategies, meet the social/emotional demands of young children, understand children's thinking, know how to build student learning over time, and understand language and literacy development. All of these elements are important, based on current research which emphasizes that the first years of life have a lasting impact on child development.³⁷ However, based on the National Prekindergarten Study (2005), more than one-fourth of teachers lacked a Bachelor's Degree and half of those teachers had no more than a high school diploma. Only 24% had a Masters Degree. Assistant teachers had even less education, with 59 percent having no more than a high school diploma. Seventy one percent of teachers in this study were also found to make less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level.³⁸ Low wages likely impact retention rates.

As part of a strategic plan developed in 2008 by First Things First statewide, funded and unfunded approaches to improving the professional development of Arizona early childhood education providers were adopted. Two funded strategies that impact professional development are described below:

- Quality Improvement and Rating System (known as Quality First): This strategy establishes a rating system for child care settings, and aims to improve quality beyond licensing standards. Funding allows approximately 300 programs to receive support and funding grants through QIRS.
- Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH): This strategy establishes and coordinates the implementation of a statewide scholarship system to improve quality in the professional workforce.

In addition to the funded approaches above, FTF's strategic plan includes advocacy for increased wages for the early childhood workforce, and increased systems coordination between community colleges and universities.

Information on the level of certification, credentials and degrees for Graham/Greenlee providers was gathered in a phone survey conducted as part of the Graham/Greenlee Special Requests, and details are provided in **Section V** of this report. Additional local information on wages and benefits and other important aspects of professional development were unavailable at the writing of this report.

37 National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE) position statement on early childhood certification for teachers of children 8 years old and younger in public school settings (2010, June 23). *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, 30:2, 188-191.

38 "Many pre-k teachers fall short on salaries, education levels." *Report on Preschool Programs* 37.10 (2005): 77. General OneFile. Web. 23 June 2010.

II. Supporting Families

A. Family Support

Parenting can be challenging during the best of times, and during an economic recession many families face added stress. Concerns about job loss, financial stability, and providing for their families may challenge even the most skilled and knowledgeable parents to care for their children in a way that fully prepares them for school and life. Families need access to information about early child development and services that support them in being caring and responsive parents.

Family support consists of a broad system of programs, services and collaborations designed with the goal of helping families function to their potential. Different family support programs and services approach this goal quite differently. Some programs work to increase the knowledge families have about child development and best practices in parenting. Others help parents to build skills and abilities that better enable them to meet the physical, social, and emotional demands of being a parent. Parents are encouraged to provide supportive and responsive care to their children, as this can have a long-term, positive impact on their development. Strategies for promoting enhanced development often stress parent-child attachment during infancy and parenting skills.³⁹ Some programs focus on the home environment and ensuring that it is safe and filled with educational materials to help families prepare their children to enter kindergarten.

Supporting families early in the developmental stages of their youth has been shown to minimize future health, educational, behavioral, and crime-related problems.⁴⁰ Many research studies have shown that early developmental programs can positively impact child and family well-being across a variety of outcomes. A meta-analysis of seventeen studies of early developmental programs (across a range of areas including child care, home visitation, family support, and parent education) found that these types of programs can have a wide range of beneficial effects on participating children and families. Positive effects were particularly found on educational success during adolescence.⁴¹

Data from the First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey provide insight into parents' perception of services currently available in the region and ways in which such services might better fulfill their needs. Most (95%) of the Graham and Greenlee County parents surveyed were somewhat or very satisfied with the information available to them about children's development and health. However, approximately 43% of the parents expressed moderate or strong dissatisfaction with how agencies that serve young children and their families work together and communicate.

39 Sroufe, L. A. Emotional development: The organization of emotional life in the early years. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; Tronick, E. Emotions and emotional communication in infants, 1989, *American Psychologist*, 44, 112-119.

40 Farrington, D., & Welsh, B.C. (2002). Family-based crime prevention. In L.W. Sherman, D. Farrington, B.C. Welsh, & D. Layton MacKenzie (Eds.), *Evidence-based crime prevention* (pp. 22-55). London: Routledge. As cited in Manning, M., Homel, R., & Smith, C. (2010). A meta-analysis of the effects of early developmental prevention programs in at-risk populations on non-health outcomes in adolescence. *Children and Youth Services Review* 32 (2010) 506-510.

41 Manning, M., Homel, R., & Smith, C. (2010). A meta-analysis of the effects of early developmental prevention programs in at-risk populations on non-health outcomes in adolescence. *Children and Youth Services Review* 32 (2010) 506-510.

Family Satisfaction with Services in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 20

How satisfied are you with the information and resources available to you about children's development and health?

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	1%	4%	39%	56%
Arizona	8%	4%	42%	56%

How satisfied are you with how agencies that serve young children and their families work together and communicate?

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	17%	26%	42%	15%
Arizona	14%	29%	42%	15%

Source: First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey

A majority (75% or more) of the parents surveyed in the Graham/Greenlee Region agreed or strongly agreed that it was easy to locate the services they needed and that the services they received were very good. Over 65% of parents also agreed or strongly agreed that the services reflected their cultural values, and an even higher percent (91%) felt that the services and materials were offered in their language. However, 30-40% of parents did not feel the services met all their families' needs and felt that they only received services after they qualified as severe. Forty-five percent of parents in Graham and Greenlee County also felt that services were not available at times or locations that were convenient. In addition, 62% of parents felt there was a repetition in the paperwork required to obtain services. Approximately 40% of parents did not know if they were eligible to receive services. While suggesting some concerns with service access and availability, most of these percents are below the state average for the same indicators.

Family Perceptions of Services in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 2008

It is easy to locate services that I need or want.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	5%	13%	38%	45%
Arizona	9%	19%	30%	43%

I do not know if I am eligible to receive services.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	43%	18%	22%	18%
Arizona	24%	25%	42%	9%

I am asked to fill out paperwork or eligibility forms multiple times.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	20%	19%	31%	31%
Arizona	17%	24%	26%	33%

Available services are very good.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	12%	10%	39%	40%
Arizona	5%	0%	40%	55%

Available services reflect my cultural values.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	17%	18%	38%	27%
Arizona	20%	21%	36%	23%

Service providers do not speak my language or materials are not in my language.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	82%	9%	3%	5%
Arizona	71%	16%	4%	9%

Services are not available at times or locations that are convenient.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	32%	23%	28%	17%
Arizona	24%	17%	28%	31%

Available services fill some of my needs, but do not meet the needs of my whole family.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	44%	18%	24%	14%
Arizona	32%	27%	30%	11%

I cannot find services to prevent problems; I only qualify after problems are severe.

	VERY DISSATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED	SOME-WHAT SATISFIED	VERY SATISFIED
Region	44%	24%	15%	17%
Arizona	30%	23%	20%	26%

Source: First Things First (2008). *Complete by Region Family and Community Survey* (Unpublished Data).

An important factor influencing parents' choice of services for their children age 0-5 years, is their level of knowledge regarding child development. Parental knowledge of child development is considered important to a range of positive child outcomes, as knowledgeable parents are more aware of their child's needs at different stages of development. Some studies suggest that a lack of parental knowledge about child development may be a risk factor for child maltreatment. Larger percentages of the region's parents answered correctly on 11 of 22 questions concerning child development on the First Things First Family and Community Survey than did parents statewide. However, the relatively low level of some scores indicates that continued efforts are still needed in the Graham/Greenlee Region to educate parents about child development. Results of the FTF conducted survey of parents' understanding of early childhood are presented in the table below.

Parents' Understanding of Early Childhood in Graham and Greenlee Counties Compared to the State, 2008

When do you think a parent can begin to significantly impact a child's brain development	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: PRENATAL/FROM BIRTH	
	In Region 92%	In Arizona 78%
At what age do you think an infant or young child begins to really take in and react to the world around them?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: UP TO ONE MONTH	
	In Region 50%	In Arizona 51%
Which do you agree with more? First year has a little impact on school performance First year has a major impact on school performance	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: FIRST YEAR HAS A MAJOR IMPACT ON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE	
	In Region 91%	In Arizona 79%
At what age do you think a baby or young child can begin to sense whether or not his parent is depressed or angry, and can be affected by his parent's mood?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: UP TO TWO MONTHS	
	In Region 64%	In Arizona 57%
Children's capacity for learning is pretty much set from birth and cannot be greatly increased or decreased by how the parents interact with them. (4 choices from definitely false to definitely true)	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: DEFINITELY FALSE	
	In Region 72%	In Arizona 78%
In terms of learning about language, children get an equal benefit from hearing someone talk on TV versus hearing a person in the same room talking to them. (4 choices from definitely false to definitely true)	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: DEFINITELY FALSE	
	In Region 58%	In Arizona 53%
Parents' emotional closeness with their baby can strongly influence that child's intellectual development.	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: DEFINITELY TRUE	
	In Region 87%	In Arizona 89%

For a five-year-old, how important do you think playing is for that child's healthy development?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: PLAYING IS CRUCIAL	
	In Region 91%	In Arizona 90%
For a three-year-old, how important do you think playing is for that child's healthy development?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: PLAYING IS CRUCIAL	
	In Region 93%	In Arizona 92%
For a 10-month-old, how important do you think playing is for that child's healthy development?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: PLAYING IS CRUCIAL	
	In Region 78%	In Arizona 79%
If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child wants to get her parents' attention?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: NOT AT ALL LIKELY	
	In Region 5%	In Arizona 14%
If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child enjoys learning about what happens when buttons are pressed?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: VERY LIKELY	
	In Region 76%	In Arizona 78%
If a 12-month-old walks up to the TV and begins to turn the TV on and off repeatedly, the child is angry at her parents for some reason or she is trying to get back at them?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: NOT AT ALL LIKELY	
	In Region 82%	In Arizona 76%
In this case of turning the TV on and off, would you say that the child is misbehaving, or not?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: NOT MISBEHAVING	
	In Region 89%	In Arizona 92%
Should a 15-month-old baby be expected to share her toys with other children?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: NO, TOO YOUNG TO SHARE	
	In Region 56%	In Arizona 60%
Should a 3-year-old child be expected to sit quietly for an hour or so?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: A THREE-YEAR-OLD SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED	
	In Region 63%	In Arizona 74%
Can a six-month-old be spoiled? Or is he too young?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: A SIX-MONTH-OLD IS TOO YOUNG TO SPOIL	
	In Region 38%	In Arizona 36%

Picking up a three-month-old every time she cries?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: APPROPRIATE	
	In Region 74%	In Arizona 62%
Rocking a one-year-old to sleep every night because the child will protest if this is not done?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: APPROPRIATE	
	In Region 34%	In Arizona 30%
Letting a two-year-old get down from the dinner table before the rest of the family has finished their meal?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: APPROPRIATE	
	In Region 51%	In Arizona 58%
Letting a five-year-old choose what to wear to school every day?	PERCENT CORRECTLY RESPONDING: APPROPRIATE	
	In Region 92%	In Arizona 77%

Source: First Things First (2008). Complete by Region Family and Community Survey (Unpublished Data).

Child Abuse/Neglect

Significant research has been done on child abuse and neglect in an effort to understand what factors may contribute to positive and negative outcomes for youth. Most of the factors identified can be categorized into societal, community, family/parental, and child specific risk and protective factors. Increasingly, research suggests that it is a complex inter-play of these factors that impact the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

The number of reports of child abuse in the Graham/Greenlee Region fluctuated from October 2007 to September 2009, ranging from 84 to 102 for each six month period in Graham County and 13-23 in Greenlee County. The number of such reports substantiated has increased noticeably in Graham County over the same four reported periods, from 0% in the first two periods to 5.4% and 3.6% in the last two periods, respectively. The substantiation rate for Graham County was 0% for three of the reported periods, but was 25% for the period of October 2008-March 2009. Such a high substantiation rate for that period was in part due to the fact that in comparison to more populated counties of the state, the number of cases of child abuse reported in Graham County has historically been small. Consequently, even a small number of substantiations will lead to a high substantiation rate. It should be noted that the substantiation rate for Arizona for the last two reported periods was 9% and 6%, respectively.

The number of new removals from the home ranged from 0-7 new removals for each six month period. It is worth noting that a child abuse report is neither an indicator of risk nor does it necessarily lead to a child's removal from their home. Moreover, lack of substantiation is often due to a lack of resources in the child welfare system. The current state fiscal crisis that has led to a decrease in the number of Child Protective Services (CPS) staff statewide may have impacted the region in this regard.

42 Peirson, L., Laurendeau, M., and Chamberland, C. (2001). Context, contributing factors, and consequences. In Prilleltensky, I., Nelson, G., and Peirson, L. (Eds.) *Promoting Family Wellness and Preventing Child Maltreatment: Fundamentals for Thinking and Action* (pgs. 41-123). Canada: University of Toronto Press Incorporated.

Child Abuse Reports, Substantiations, Removals, and Placements, 2007-2009

		OCT. 2007 THROUGH MAR. 2008	APR. 2008 THROUGH SEPT. 2008	OCT. 2008 THROUGH MAR. 2009	APR. 2009 THROUGH SEPT. 2009
NUMBER OF REPORTS RECEIVED	Graham County	84	102	90	97
	Greenlee County	23	15	13	16
NUMBER OF REPORTS SUBSTANTIATED	Graham County	0	0	4	3
	Greenlee County	0	0	3	0
SUBSTANTIATION RATE	Graham County	0%	0%	5.4%	3.6%
	Greenlee County	0%	0%	25.0%	0%
NUMBER OF NEW REMOVALS	Graham County	3	7	6	3
	Greenlee County	2	2	2	0

Source: Arizona State, Department of Economic Security, Child Welfare Reports, Oct. 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009; Apr. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2009. Tables 2, 3, 15, 16, 21, and 22. Retrieved on May 18, 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>. Substantiation rates are computed based on the total number child abuse cases assigned for investigation whose risks levels were assessed as low, medium, or high risk. It excluded reports reported labeled in the Child Welfare Reports as “potential.”

Examination of CPS data by Graham and Greenlee zip codes suggests that there was some fluctuation in the number of children removed in 2007 and 2009. Overall, the number of children removed remained constant for 2007 and 2009 for Graham County as a whole, however, there was variation by zip code. Four zip codes in this county (85536, 85546, 85548, and 85551) saw decreases in the number of children removed between 2007 and 2009, while one zip code (85552) saw an increase in the number of children removed by CPS, increasing from 2 to 7 children across these two years. In Greenlee County, there was an overall decline in the number of children removed by Child Protective Services, decreasing from 10 to 3 children between 2007 and 2009. All zip codes in this county saw a decrease in this indicator, except for one zip code (85534) which remained constant at 2 children for both years.

Children Removed by Child Protective Services by Graham and Greenlee County Zip Codes, 2007 and 2009

	2007		2009	
	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PERCENT OF STATE TOTAL	NUMBER OF CHILDREN	PERCENT OF STATE TOTAL
GRAHAM COUNTY	19	0.25%	19	0.24%
85536	2	0.03%	-	-
85546	13	0.17%	12	0.15%
85548	1	0.01%	-	-
85551	1	0.01%	-	-
85552	2	0.03%	7	0.09%
GREENLEE COUNTY	10	0.13%	3	0.03%
85228	4	0.05%	-	-
85533	3	0.04%	1	0.01%
85534	2	0.03%	2	0.02%
85540	1	0.01%	-	-

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Child Protective Services (provided by First Things First)

Foster Care

Over half a million children in the United States receive foster care each year.⁴³ Children are placed in foster care settings for a variety of different reasons, and few are reunified with their parents. One study found that on average, the duration of care was 48.6 months. These results suggest that many youth in foster care (approximately 7 out of every 10) will age out of the welfare system before they can be reunited with their biological families or adopted.⁴⁴ Youth who are aging out of foster care are at increased risk for a range of poor outcomes related to employment, education, housing, criminal activity, physical and mental health, substance abuse, and child bearing.⁴⁵ Many of these risk factors hold true even for youth who are adopted or for whom permanent environments are established.

The stated policy of the Arizona Department of Economic Security is to avoid children's repeat entry into foster care, while ensuring the best interests of children and their families. According to the department's most recent reporting, few children were entering out-of-home care by prior placements from Apr. 1-Sept. 30, 2009 in either county. No children entering out-of-home care were reported for Greenlee County during this time frame.

Number of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care by Prior Placements, Apr. 1 – Sept. 30, 2009

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN REMOVED	NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH PRIOR REMOVAL IN LAST 12 MONTHS	PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH REMOVAL IN PRIOR 12 MONTHS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH PRIOR REMOVAL IN LAST 12 TO 24 MONTHS	PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH REMOVAL IN PRIOR 12 TO 24 MONTHS
Graham County	8	4	50%	0	0
Greenlee County	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	3,819	401	10.5%	101	2.6%

Source: Arizona State, Department of Economic Security, *Child Welfare Report 1st Apr 2009 to 31st Sep 2009*, Table 31. Retrieved on May 18, 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>

43 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2006). Foster care FY2002-FY2006 entries, exits, and number of children in care on the last day of each federal fiscal year. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

44 Cheng, T.C. (2010). Factors associated with reunification: A longitudinal analysis of long-term foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review* (2010), doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2010.

45 Stott, T., & Gustavsson, N. (2010). Balancing permanency and stability for youth in foster care. *Children and Youth Services Review* 32, 619-625.

Juvenile Justice

When children enter the juvenile justice system it is often the culmination of a history of psychological and academic problems. A youth's entry, exit, and continued involvement in the juvenile justice system is influenced by a range of individual, social, and environmental factors. For example, race/ethnicity, gender, histories of mental health, substance abuse, trauma, delinquency, family conflict, poverty, prior social service involvement, and even geographic location may impact a youth's likelihood of juvenile justice involvement.⁴⁶ Thus, the number of a region's children who are in the juvenile justice system may to some degree be taken as a measure of the efficacy of early child development and programs in a region. Involvement in the juvenile justice system is of ongoing concern, as on average, over half of juvenile delinquents go on to become adult offenders.⁴⁷

The number of juvenile cases filed in Graham County and Greenlee County Superior Court is reported below. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, 385 juveniles in Graham County and 65 juveniles in Greenlee County were referred to the Arizona Court System in Fiscal Year 2009. One hundred and fifty of these youth were detained, 138 were diverted to community service or other non-judicial alternatives, and a total of 277 petitions were filed requesting the court assume jurisdiction. Of the 450 total juveniles referred, just less than half (44%) of these youth then received standard probation. Approximately 17% of the cases were dismissed, 2% received a penalty only, 6% entered Juvenile Intensive Probation Services and 2% were committed to ADJC.

Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System, Fiscal Year 2009

	REFERRED	DETAINED	DIVERTED	PETITIONS FILED	DISMISSED	PENALTY ONLY	STANDARD PROBATION	JIPS	COMMITTED TO ADJC
Graham County	385	128	127	239	62	8	168	14	8
Greenlee County	65	22	11	38	13	0	30	13	0
TOTAL	450	150	138	277	75	8	198	27	8

Source: Arizona State, Administrative Office of the Courts, Juvenile Justice Services Division, Research and Information Unit, *Juveniles Processed in the Arizona Court System, FY 2009*. Retrieved on May 12, 2010 from <http://www.azcourts.gov/Default.aspx?alias=www.azcourts.gov/jjssd>. Data are reported for juveniles ages 8 through 17. Cases for juveniles below age 8 are handled through Child Protective Services or other agencies. *Referred* indicates juveniles for whom a report was submitted to the juvenile court alleging the youth committed a delinquent act or incorrigible behavior. *Diverted* denotes a process by which a juvenile is able to avoid formal court processing and to have the referral alleging an offense adjusted if the juvenile fulfills one or more conditions. *Petitions Filed* refers to legal documents filed in the juvenile court alleging that a referred youth is delinquent, incorrigible, or dependent and which requests the courts to assume jurisdiction over the youth. *Dismissed* denotes the number of youth with petitions against them that were dismissed. The dismissal of a petition may occur because of a lack of evidence, extension of unfulfilled diversion conditions, disposition of other charges, etc. *JIPS* = Juvenile Intensive Probation.

46 Maschi, T., Hatcher, S.S., Schwalbe, C.S., & Rosato, N.S. (2008). Mapping the social service pathways of youth to and through the juvenile justice system: a comprehensive review. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 30, 1376-1385.

47 Eggleston, E.P., & Laub, J.H. (2002). The onset of adult offending: A neglected dimension of the criminal career. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 30 (6), 603-622. Doi:10.1016/S0047-2352(02)00193-9

III. Health

A. Health

The health and safety of children is of the utmost importance to parents. Parents want to live in communities where they know their children will receive the health services and care that they need to develop into healthy adults. Research suggests that the focus on children's health is warranted. Poor health in childhood can have lasting and cumulative effects on an individual's health and well-being.⁴⁸ Physical, developmental, and mental health problems that go unaddressed may result in lasting health concerns decades later.⁴⁹ Prenatal care for mothers is also crucial in preventing many birth outcomes which may have lasting effects on children's health.

While the last 50 years have seen declines in child mortality, rates of acute illness, and pediatric hospitalizations, there appears to be an increase in chronic illness.⁵⁰ Increased rates of childhood obesity are also of concern. In the past 30 years, the percentage of American children ages 12-19 who are overweight has more than tripled.⁵¹ One in three children ages 2-19 is now considered overweight or obese.⁵² It is estimated that, if current trends continue, by 2030 16-18% of all health care spending in this country would be attributable to overweight/obesity.⁵³ In addition, there are significant health disparities for children in this country. Children who live in low-income households have been shown to have worse health outcomes than their peers from higher income households.^{54 55} One study based on the National Survey of Children's Health, which includes a telephone survey of 102,353 parents, found that the percentage of children in better health increased with family income for 15 health outcomes.⁵⁶

With the high costs associated with health care, most families are dependent on health insurance to cover needed services. According to the National Health Interview Survey, health insurance coverage for children increased significantly from 86% in 1996 to 91% in 2008. This increase was primarily attributed to increasing enrollment of children in public programs, such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Social Security Income for children with disabilities, and The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Enrollment in private insurance fell during the same time period.⁵⁷ Many

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- 48 Russ, S., et. al., Meeting children's basic health needs: From patchwork to tapestry, *Children and Youth Services Review* (2010), doi:10.1016/j.chilcyouth.2010.03.007.
- 49 Keating, D.P., & Hertzman, C. (1999). *Developmental Health and the wealth of nations: Social, biological, and educational dynamics*. New York: Guilford Press.
- 50 Wise, P.H. (2007). The future pediatrician: The challenge of chronic illness. *Journal of Pediatrics*, 151 (5 Suppl), S6-S10. Cited in Russ, S., et. al., Meeting children's basic health needs: From patchwork to tapestry, *Children and Youth Services Review* (2010), doi:10.1016/j.chilcyouth.2010.03.007.
- 51 National Center for Health Statistics (2009). *Health, United States, 2008, With Chartbook*. Hyattsville, MD.
- 52 Ogden, C.L., Carroll, M., Curtin, L., Lamb, M., Flegal, K. (2010). Prevalence of High Body Mass Index in US Children and Adolescents 2007-2008. *Journal of American Medical Association*, 303(3), 242-249.
- 53 Wang, Y., Beydoun, M.A., Liang, L. Caballero, B., & Kumanyika, S.K. (2008). Will all Americans become overweight or obese? Estimating the progression and cost of the US obesity epidemic. *Obesity*, 16(10), 2323-2330.
- 54 Starfield, B., Robertson, J., & Riley, A.W. (2002). Social class gradients and health in childhood. *Ambulatory Pediatrics*, 2(4), 238-246.
- 55 Larson, K., & Halfon, N. (2009). Family income gradients in the health and health care access of US children. *Maternal and Child Health Journal* June 5 [Electronic publication ahead of print].
- 56 Larson, K. & Halfon, N. (2010). Family income gradients in the health and health care access of US children. *Maternal Child Health Journal*. 14:332-342. DOI 10.1007/s10995-009-0477-y.
- 57 Cohen, R.A., & Martinez, M.M. (2009, June 5). Health insurance coverage: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2008. Retrieved 10/13/2009 from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur200906.htm>.

families, however, are uninsured or underinsured. One study of 43,509 children ages 2-17 (living with at least 1 parent) found that 73.6% of children were insured with insured parents, 8.0% were uninsured with uninsured parents, and the remaining 18.4% had discordant patterns of coverage. Overall, about 11.6%, or roughly 7.4 million U.S. children each year are uninsured.⁵⁷

In general, insurance is associated with increased access to services and utilization of those services⁵⁹ as well as fewer unmet health needs.⁶⁰ Children's healthy development benefits from access to comprehensive preventive and primary health services that include screening and early identification for developmental milestones, vision, hearing, oral health, nutrition and exercise, and social-emotional health. The following sections detail a variety of health indicators for the Graham/Greenlee Region including: health insurance coverage and access, prenatal care and healthy births, access and utilization of a range of other health programs/services, immunization rates, and child mortality and morbidity, among other indicators.

Health Insurance Coverage and Utilization

There are several factors that have affected the number of children enrolled in KidsCare. There are two legislative reasons that enrollments have declined. The first is the passage of HB 2008, requiring all workers to report eligible families' citizenship status, which caused widespread concern throughout Arizona and was a potential factor in the marked decreases in new applications in November and December of 2009. The second is the statewide freeze on KidsCare enrollment put in place on January 1, 2010. No new applications for KidsCare are being processed, only renewals are being accepted. However, there is also a drop in renewals due to the current economic situation. The downturn in the economy led to many families becoming eligible for Medicaid rather than KidsCare. The economy may have also led to some families having difficulties in paying the monthly premiums for KidsCare. See the most recent details as reported by AHCCCS for the first quarter of 2010 below.

KidsCare Renewals & Discontinuances for 1st Quarter 2010

Total Renewals & Other Actions Processed: 19,008

Total Continued: 6,837

Total Discontinued: 12,171

Moved to Medicaid: 4,923 (40%)

Income over 200% FPL: 1,277 (11%)

Failed to Cooperate: 1,710 (14%)

Failed to Pay Premium: 3,638 (30%)

Other: 623 (5%)

Taken from the Arizona AHCCCS website on June 29, 2010 <http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/Downloads/News/KidsCareDiscontinuancesQuarterly.pdf>

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- 58 DeVoe, J.E., Tillotson, C.J., Wallace, L. (2009, Sept/Oct). Children's receipt of health care services and family health insurance patterns. *Annals of Family Medicine*. Vol.7, No. 5.
- 59 Selden, T.M., & Hudson, J.L. (2006). Access to care and utilization among children: Estimating the effects of public and private coverage. *Medical care trends in medical care costs, coverage, use and access: Research findings from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey*, 44(5), pp. 1-19-1-26.
- 60 Kenney, G. (2007). The impacts of the State Children's Health Insurance Program on children who enroll: Findings from 10 states. *Health Services Research*, 42(4), 1520-1543.

Given the backdrop of this information, data from 2008-2010 show that in Graham County the percent of children enrolled in KidsCare dropped by 20% during this time period, while the number of children enrolled remained relatively steady in Greenlee County. Arizona as a whole experienced an even more dramatic decrease in KidsCare enrollment during this time period, dropping from 63,580 kids enrolled to 42,162.

KidsCare Enrollment, 2008-2010

	FEBRUARY 2008	FEBRUARY 2009	FEBRUARY 2010	PERCENT CHANGE (2008 TO 2010)
Graham County	257	217	205	-20%
Greenlee County	33	37	33	0
Arizona	63,580	59,574	42,162	-34%

Source: Arizona State, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), *KidsCare Population as of Feb. 1, 2010, Enrollment by County*. Retrieved June 2, 2010 from <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/enrollment/KidsCare.aspx>

Healthy Births

A mother's lifestyle while pregnant as well as her access to and utilization of prenatal and perinatal care have important short-term and long-term implications for the health of her child. It is recommended that a woman have monthly medical visits from the beginning of her pregnancy. Arizona Department of Health Services data from 2006 to 2008 shows that the region was below the state average in the percent of women who received more than 9 visits during pregnancy. Thirty-eight percent of mothers in Graham County and 34% of mothers in Greenlee County had 9 or more visits, compared to 78% of mothers statewide. However, slightly fewer women in these counties reported no prenatal visits as compared to the statewide average. More women in Graham and Greenlee Counties had 1-4 or 5-8 visits than was average across Arizona. These percents remained relatively constant from 2006-2008, with slight fluctuations in the number of visits noted for Graham County during this time period.

Births by Number of Prenatal Visits, 2006 -2008

Graham County

	2006	2007	2008
No visits	1%	1%	<1%
1-4 visits	9%	12%	20%
5-8 visits	36%	37%	41%
9-12 visits	43%	38%	32%
13+ visits	9%	9%	6%

Greenlee County

	2006	2007	2008
No visits	0	0	<1%
1-4 visits	10%	21%	18%
5-8 visits	40%	46%	48%
9-12 visits	43%	27%	30%
13+ visits	7%	7%	4%

Arizona

	2006	2007	2008
No visits	2%	2%	2%
1-4 visits	4%	4%	4%
5-8 visits	17%	17%	17%
9-12 visits	49%	47%	48%
13+ visits	28%	30%	30%

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Arizona Vital Statistics, Birth Statistics, 2006-2008. *Table 5B-12 – Births by Number of Prenatal Visits and County of Residence*. Retrieved on April 21, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2008/5b.htm>.

Percents do not total to 100% because of rounding off. The number of prenatal visits was unknown for only 0.1-0.4 % of births for both counties and Arizona as a whole for 2006-2008.

Low birth weight babies are at risk for serious health problems as newborns that may affect their health throughout their lives. The low birth weight ratio differed significantly between Graham and Greenlee Counties in 2006 and 2008. In 2006, the low birth weight ratio in Greenlee County was 45.5 as compared to 85.2 for Graham County and 71.2 for Arizona overall. Both ratios increased by 2008, suggesting an increase in the number of low birth weight babies across counties, though the difference between counties on this indicator is still observed. In 2008, the low birth weight ratio in Greenlee County was 65.0 whereas for Graham County the ratio was 96.3. The average for Arizona was slightly higher than in 2006, recorded at 75.4.

Low Birth weight Ratios, 2006-2008

	2006	2007	2008
Graham County	85.2	82.5	96.3
Greenlee County	45.5	94.2	65.0
Arizona	71.2	70.9	75.4
United States	83.0	NA	NA

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Arizona Vital Statistics, Birth Statistics, 2006-2008. *Table 5B-17 – Low-Birth weight Ratios in the United States and in Urban and Rural Counties of Arizona, 1998-2008*. Retrieved on April 21, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2008/5b.htm>. *Low birth weight* means less than 5.8 pounds at birth. The data provided are per 1,000 live births.

There were a total of 34 pre-term newborns admitted to intensive care units in Graham and Greenlee Counties in 2008 and another 10 newborns admitted who were born after 37 weeks (not pre-term). Details are not available on the reasons these youth were admitted.

Newborns Admitted to Intensive Care Units, 2008

	PRE-TERM (LESS THAN 37 WEEKS)			37 WEEKS OR MORE		
	TOTAL	<2,500 GRAMS	2,500 OR MORE GRAMS	TOTAL	<2,500 GRAMS	2,500 OR MORE GRAMS
Graham County	29	20	9	7	0	7
Greenlee County	5	4	1	3	0	3
Arizona	3,508	2,688	819	2,423	175	2,246

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 2008, *Table 5B-24, Newborns Admitted to Newborn Intensive Care Units by Gestational Age, Birth weight and Mother's County of Residence, Arizona, 2008*. Retrieved on May 25, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2008/5b.htm>. Arizona data does not include 1 pre-term and two full-term births for which weight data is not known.

In a number of measures of the prenatal practices of pregnant women and characteristics of births, 2008 data from the Graham/Greenlee Region compares somewhat unfavorably with that of the state as a whole. Compared to the statewide average, more than twice as many women in the region use tobacco during pregnancy (10% of Graham County mothers and 13% of Greenlee County mothers). Births in the region are also more likely to have complications with labor and/or delivery reported, with rates reported at 37.6 and 40.5 in Graham and Greenlee Counties respectively for this indicator, compared to 27.4 for Arizona overall. Births with abnormal conditions reported are almost three times more likely to occur in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in Arizona. The rate for births with abnormal conditions was 23.8 per 100 in Graham County, 20.6 in Greenlee County, and 6.6 in Arizona overall. The Graham/Greenlee Region was similar to the state on many other characteristics related to newborns and mothers giving birth, including rates of births with medical risk factors, primary and secondary caesarean births, and infants admitted to newborn intensive care.

Rates* of Occurrence of Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers Giving Birth, 2008

	GRAHAM COUNTY	GREENLEE COUNTY	ARIZONA
Preterm Births (gestational age <37 weeks)	14.4	11.5	10.2
Births with complications of labor and/or delivery reported	37.6	40.5	27.4
Births with abnormal conditions reported	23.8	20.6	6.6
Births with medical risk factors reported	30.1	32.1	32.1
Primary and repeat caesarean births	27.8	24.4	27.5
Infants admitted to newborn intensive care units	5.6	6.1	6.0
Tobacco used during pregnancy	10.2	13.0	4.9
Alcohol use during pregnancy	0.2	0	0.5

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Arizona Vital Statistics, *Table 5B-30- Rates of Occurrence for Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers Giving Birth by County of Residence, Arizona, 2008*. Retrieved on April 21, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2008/5b.htm>. Rate is per 100 births.

Examination of a number of characteristics of newborns and mothers by community provides insight into the variation across the region in public health challenges for this population. For example, in a number of Graham and Greenlee communities 30-40% of pregnant women do not access prenatal care during their first trimester. Please note that births by mother's race and ethnicity is provided in the *Additional Population Characteristics* section of this report.

Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers by Graham and Greenlee County Community, 2008

COMMUNITY	TOTAL BIRTHS	MOTHER <19 Y.O.	PRENATAL CARE IN 1ST TRIMESTER	NO PRENATAL CARE	PUBLIC PAYEE FOR BIRTH	LOW BIRTH-WEIGHT NEWBORN	UNWED MOTHER
GRAHAM COUNTY							
Bylas	68	20	37	2	59	6	51
Central	9	2	6	0	5	1	3
Fort Thomas	3	0	2	0	0	0	0
Pima	83	10	52	2	45	6	24
Safford	345	54	268	0	197	36	162
San Carlos	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Solomon	14	2	8	0	10	1	11
Thatcher	113	13	77	2	58	11	36
Unknown	8	1	5	0	6	1	3
County Total	644	102	455	6	381	62	291
GREENLEE COUNTY							
Clifton	36	7	27	1	17	1	23
Duncan	38	9	18	0	18	4	18
Morenci	57	7	43	0	18	4	24
COUNTY TOTAL	131	23	88	1	53	9	65

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Vital Statistics, *Births BY Mother's Age Group and Community, Arizona, 2008*. *Selected Characteristics of Newborns and Mothers by Community, Arizona, 2008*. Retrieved on April 23, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/cvs/cvs08/cvsindex.htm>.

As shown in the table above, teen birth rates are often high in Graham and Greenlee County communities. Overall, there were 25 births to unmarried mothers under the age of 17 in Graham County and 9 in Greenlee County. Of these, 5 in Graham County and 6 in Greenlee County had private insurance or self-paid for birth. The remainder was covered by either AHCCCS or IHS.

Teen Births by Marital Status and Payee for Birth, 2008

		MARITAL STATUS		PAYEE FOR BIRTH			
		MARRIED	UNMARRIED	AHCCCS	IHS	PRIVATE INSURANCE	SELF
Graham County	< 15 years	0	3	1	2	0	0
	15-17 years	3	22	13	7	5	0
	18-19 years	11	63	58	7	8	0
Greenlee County	< 15 years	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	15-17 years	1	9	4	0	6	0
	18-19 years	1	12	10	0	3	0

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics, *Table TB-8 - Births By Mother's Race/Ethnicity, Child's Gender and County of Residence, Arizona, 2008*. Retrieved on April 23, 2010 from: <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/avs/avs08/section%202.htm>.

The payee for one 18-19-year-old's birth is unknown. NA indicates no births were recorded for girls under 15 years of age.

Immunizations

The importance of immunizations for young children cannot be over-emphasized. Immunizations have been shown to be one of the health measures with the most important contribution to public health in the past century. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), if a child is not vaccinated and is exposed to a disease, the child's system may not be strong enough to fight off the disease. The CDC also notes that immunizing individual children helps to protect the health of a community, particularly the people who are not immunized (including those who are too young or have medical reasons preventing them from being immunized). Immunization helps to slow or stop disease outbreaks when they occur.⁶²

An important indicator of child health in a region is the percent of children immunized by the time they enter kindergarten. Across localities in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 83% of the 586 children entering kindergarten are immunized. Ft. Thomas and Morenci have the lowest percent immunized of the locations for which data was available, at 50% and 60% immunized respectively. Bonita, Clifton, and Duncan report a 100% immunization rate.

Immunization Status of Children Entering Kindergarten by Graham and Greenlee County Community, 2007

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN	NUMBER IMMUNIZED	PERCENT IMMUNIZED
Bonita	6	6	100%
Clifton	12	12	100%
Duncan	21	21	100%
Ft. Thomas	6	3	50%
Morenci	86	52	60%
Pima	53	44	83%
Safford	273	231	85%
Solomon	28	25	89%
Thatcher	101	94	93%
TOTAL	586	488	83%

Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Data were provided by Graham County and Greenlee County school nurses in 2007.

Additional data on children vaccinated was available from physicians' reports to the Arizona Department of Health Services. Data is available by Graham and Greenlee County zip codes for 2005, 2007, and 2009. A little more than half of children in most zip codes in Graham County completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series within the 19-35 month period in 2009. In Greenlee County, less than half of children completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series within the 19-35 month period in 2009. The percent of children across the Graham/Greenlee Region who have completed the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 after this 35 month time period ranges from 25.9% to 45.3% in 2006.⁶³

62 www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/howvpd.htm#why

63 This summary excludes zip code 85530 for which it appears that full data may not have been available.

Children Vaccinated

Graham County

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN 19-35 MONTHS	NUMBER AND PERCENT 19-35 MO.COMPLETED*	NUMBER AND PERCENT 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 COMPLETED**
85530			
2005	---	---	---
2007	56	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
2009	68	1 (1.5%)	1 (1.5%)
85543			
2005	83	40 (48.2%)	18 (22.0%)
2007	73	35 (48.0%)	28 (38.4%)
2009	75	41 (54.7%)	34 (45.3%)
85546			
2005	383	184 (48.0%)	61 (16.0%)
2007	369	198 (53.7%)	153 (41.5%)
2009	373	174 (46.7%)	140 (37.5%)
85551			
2005	22	7 (31.8%)	2 (9.0%)
2007	20	14 (70%)	9 (45.0%)
2009	20	11 (55%)	9 (45.0%)
85552			
2005	113	56 (49.6%)	22 (19.0%)
2007	121	70 (57.9%)	56 (46.3%)
2009	112	59 (52.7%)	48 (42.9%)

Graham County

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN 19-35 MONTHS	NUMBER AND PERCENT 19-35 MO.COMPLETED*	NUMBER AND PERCENT 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 COMPLETED**
85533			
2005	28	8 (28.6%)	4 (14.0%)
2007	20	7 (35%)	4 (20.0%)
2009	33	15 (45.5%)	14 (42.4%)
85534			
2005	47	17 (36.2%)	12 (26.0%)
2007	48	22 (45.8%)	18 (37.5%)
2009	51	22 (43.1%)	18 (35.3%)
85540			
2005	58	28 (48.3%)	12 (21.0%)
2007	59	25 (42.4%)	14 (23.7%)
2009	54	20 (37%)	14 (25.9%)

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (2005, 2007, 2009). Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIS) data pulled on May 4, 2010 (Unpub-

lished Data). This refers to completion in 19-35 months of the 4:3:1:3:3:1 vaccination series (4 Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib, 3 Hepatitis B vaccines and 1 Varicella). ***Refers to completion of the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 vaccination series (4 or more doses of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis vaccine, 3 or more doses of Poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of any Measles-containing vaccine, 3 or more doses of Haemophilus influenza type b vaccine, 3 or more doses of Hepatitis B, 1 or more doses of Varicella, and 4 or more doses of PCV7). These data are derived from physicians' reports to the Arizona Department of Health Services. Some physicians may not file reports for all children they vaccinate. The number of children reported is not inclusive of all children in the region.

Developmental Screening

Developmental screening is another family health practice essential for ensuring children grow and develop optimally. The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all children receive a developmental screening at 9, 18, and 30 (or 24) months with a valid and reliable screening instrument.⁶⁴ Research has documented that early identification through developmental screening can lead to enhanced developmental outcomes and reduced developmental problems for children who have special needs.⁶⁵ Providing children who screen for developmental delays with the supports and services they need early in life leads to better outcomes in a range of areas including: health, education, and continued success through early adulthood.⁶⁶

Early identification of developmental or health delays is crucial to ensuring children's optimal growth and development. There are several different elements of developmental screening which are reported by the Arizona Department of Health Services. These include Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP), evaluation/assessment, and in-home or out-of-home services or programs. The percent of infants and toddlers who received Individualized Family Service Plans is slightly higher in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in the rest of Arizona from 2005-2008. The same is true for the percent of infants and toddlers with an IFSP who receive evaluation/assessment within 45 days and for the percent who receive early intervention services in the home or in other programs.

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- 64 King, T.M. Tandon, D. Macias, M.M., Healy, J.A., Duncan, P.M., Swigonski, N.L., Skipper, S.M., and Lipkin, P.H. (2010, Feb). Implementing developmental screening and referrals: Lessons learned from a national project. *Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*, Vol. 125, No. 2
- 65 Garland, C., Stone, N. W., Swanson, J., & Woodruff, G. (eds.). *Early intervention for children with special needs and their families: Findings and recommendations*. 1981, Westat Series Paper 11, University of Washington; Maisto, A. A., German, M. L. Variables related to progress in a parent-infant training program for high-risk infants. 1979, *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 4, 409-419.; Zeanah, C. H. *Handbook of infant mental health*, 2000, New York: The Guildford Press.
- 66 King, T.M. Tandon, D. Macias, M.M., Healy, J.A., Duncan, P.M., Swigonski, N.L., Skipper, S.M., and Lipkin, P.H. (2010, Feb). Implementing developmental screening and referrals: Lessons learned from a national project. *Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*, Vol. 125, No. 2

Percent of Infant and Toddlers Who Received Early Intervention Services, 2005-2008

TIME PERIOD	COUNTY STATE	PERCENT OF INFANTS 0-1 YEARS OF AGE WITH IFSP* COMPARED TO OTHER STATES AND NATIONAL	PERCENT OF INFANTS 0-3 YEARS OF AGE WITH IFSP* COMPARED TO OTHER STATES AND NATIONAL	PERCENT OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH IFSP WHO RECEIVED EVALUATION/ ASSESSMENT WITHIN 45 DAYS OF REFERRAL	PERCENT* OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH IFSP WHO PRIMARILY RECEIVE EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN THE HOME OR PROGRAMS FOR TYPICALLY DEVELOPING CHILDREN
July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006	Graham	1.00%	2.74%	64%*	100%
	Greenlee	3.05%	4.12%	64%*	100%
	Arizona	0.59%	1.61%	39%	86%
July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007	Graham	1.30%	3.27%	81%*	93%
	Greenlee	0.90%	3.12%	81%*	100%
	Arizona	0.60%	1.81%	59%	84%
July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008	Graham	1.20%	2.29%	95%*	96%
	Greenlee	1.10%	5.09%	95%*	93%
	Arizona	0.60%	1.81%	63%	63%

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, *Public Report of Early Intervention Services Program, 2008 and 2009*. Retrieved on May 18, 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx?Category=69&subcategory=36&menu=98>. IFSP = Individualized Family Service Plan Note: The data for 2006-2007 came from billing sources. Services in community settings are undercounted in this data source due to coding problems. *Graham County, Greenlee County, and Cochise County were grouped together for this indicator.

In Arizona, one of the system components that serves eligible infants and toddlers is the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP). Eligible children are those who have not reached fifty percent of the developmental milestones expected at their chronological age in one or more of the following areas of childhood development: physical, cognitive, language/communication, social/emotional, and adaptive self-help.

Examination of the number of AzEIP cases by Graham County and Greenlee County zip codes in fiscal year 2006 and 2008 identifies several communities in which a notable number of children receive developmental services. Among these is Safford, whose zip code 85546 has the largest number of children serviced by AzEIP in both periods. Thatcher zip code 85552 has the second highest number of AzEIP cases in Graham County, although that number showed a large decrease from 23 in 2006-2007 to 15 in 2008-2009. In Greenlee County, Clifton and Duncan saw an increase from the first to the second reported year in the number of AzEIP cases serviced, while Morenci saw a decrease.

The total number of AzEIP cases serviced in the two counties and the region as a whole was approximately the same in both reported years. The AzEIP data is worthy of further analysis to determine whether the differences in the number of case by zip code and across years is an artifact of population size, developmental services' locations, changes in the level of need, or another undetermined factor of interest.

AzEIP Cases Serviced between 07/01/2006 and 06/30/2007

	NUMBER OF CASES	
ZIP CODE	7/01/2006 - 6/30/2007	7/01/2008 - 6/30/2009
GRAHAM COUNTY		
85530	3	1
85531	-	2
85543	7	8
85546	32	34
85551	2	2
85552	23	15
85554	-	1
GREENLEE COUNTY		
85553	5	7
85534	4	8
85540	12	7
REGIONAL TOTAL	89	85

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security (2007, 2009). DES Multidata pulled on May 4, 2010 from (Unpublished Data).

Injuries

One measure of child well-being is the number of severe injuries sustained in childhood. While some injuries are expected, an uncharacteristically high number can indicate homes that lack a safe environment for raising a child or may indicate something about the dangers of a community. The rate of injury may also indicate whether parents are following safe parenting practices for handling newborns.

The number of Graham County youth under 19 years of age with in-patient discharges with injury and poisoning as a first-listed diagnosis increased from 64 in 2006 to 79 in 2007, and to 98 in 2008. In all but 2008, the number of Graham County children under 15 years old with an in-patient discharge with such a diagnosis was higher than that for adolescents 15-19 years old. In Greenlee County, the number of youth ranged from 11 to 14 depending on the year, with no clear trend up or down. In each of the years and for both of the age groups, males had a higher number for this indicator, sometimes by a large margin. This suggests that public health campaigns addressing injury and poisoning prevention may usefully target Graham/Greenlee Region males, and there may be a need to focus information on preventing injury in those under the age of 15 years old.

Number of Inpatient Discharges with Injury and Poisoning as First-Listed Diagnosis for Children, 2006-2008

	2006		2007		2008	
	CHILDREN UNDER 15 Y.O.	ADOLESCENTS 15-19 Y.O.	CHILDREN UNDER 15 Y.O.	ADOLESCENTS 15-19 Y.O.	CHILDREN UNDER 15 Y.O.	ADOLESCENTS 15-19 Y.O.
GRAHAM COUNTY						
Females	16	9	18	9	17	17
Males	23	16	27	25	24	40
GRAHAM COUNTY TOTAL	39	25	45	34	41	57
GREENLEE COUNTY						
Females	4	1	2	3	0	2
Males	5	4	2	4	6	5
GREENLEE COUNTY TOTAL	9	5	4	7	6	7

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, 2006-2008 Table 1, *Characteristics of ER visits and inpatient discharges with the diagnosis of injury and poisoning as first-listed diagnosis gender, race/ethnicity and county of residence, Arizona*. Retrieved June 15, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/injury/index.htm>.

Child Mortality and Morbidity

Over the last 50 years, the United States has seen significant declines in infant and child mortality, likely attributed to fewer infectious diseases, improved living conditions, and advances in medical technology. However, many deaths still occur that are the result of injuries that could be prevented. In addition, there has been an increase in suicide and homicide deaths.^{67 68} These findings suggest that child mortality and morbidity are still major concerns. The child mortality rate in the United States is almost twice that of the rate in the United Kingdom.⁶⁹

In Greenlee County, no child deaths were reported from ages 1-14 in 2007 or 2008, the only years for which this data was available for the county. In Graham County, four child deaths were reported in 2008 with causes including accidental drowning and submersion and congenital malformation. The deaths by accidental drowning and submersion might suggest the need for increased programming informing parents of this risk common to hot climates where pools are prevalent. Taking appropriate safety precautions can help to limit the number of deaths in this area.

Leading Causes of Death Among Children Ages 1-14, 2004-2008

		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Motor Vehicle Accident	Graham	2	0	0	1	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Accidental Drowning and Submersion	Graham	0	1	0	0	2
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Other Unintentional Injury	Graham	1	0	0	1	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Malignant Neoplasms	Graham	0	0	0	0	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Assault (homicide)	Graham	0	0	1	0	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Congenital Malformation	Graham	0	1	2	0	2
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Intentional Self-harm (suicide)	Graham	0	0	0	1	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Influenza and Pneumonia	Graham	0	0	0	-	-
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	-	-
Asthma	Graham	0	0	0	0	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Diseases of the Heart	Graham	0	0	0	0	0
	Greenlee	NA	NA	NA	0	0

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics, Table 5E-25, *Leading Cause of Death Among Children (1-14 years) by County of Residence, Arizona, 2004-2008*. Retrieved on March 29, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2005/5e.htm>; <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2006/5e.htm>; <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2007/5e.htm>; <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/report/ahs/ahs2008/5e.htm>. This table includes all data for causes of death among children ages 1-14 in Graham County for 2004-2008 and Greenlee County 2007-2008. Greenlee data was not reported by ADHS in Table 5E-25 prior to 2007. NA indicates the category was not included on the table for that year. *Influenza and Pneumonia* was not a category in Table 5E-25 in 2007 and 2008.

67 Singh, G. K., & Yu, S.M. (1996). US childhood mortality, 1950 through 1993: Trends and socioeconomic differentials. *American Journal of Public Health*, 97, 1658-1665. Cited in Russ, S., et. al., Meeting children's basic health needs: From patchwork to tapestry, *Children and Youth Services Review* (2010), doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2010.03.007.

68 Martin, J.A., Kung, H.C., Matthews, T.J., Hoyert, D.L., Strobino, D.M., Guyer, B., et al. (2008). Annual summary of vital statistics, 2006. *Pediatrics*, 121(4), 788-801. Cited in Russ, S., et. al., Meeting children's basic health needs: From patchwork to tapestry, *Children and Youth Services Review* (2010), doi:10.1016/j.childyouth.2010.03.007.

69 Land, K.C. (2009). The 2009 Foundation for Child Development Child and Youth Well-being Index (CWI) Report. Retrieved 6/23/09 from http://www.fcd-us.org/usr_doc/Final-2009CWIReport.

Other Relevant Data

In 2008, 31 youth under 19 years of age received an inpatient discharge with asthma as the first-listed diagnosis in Graham and Greenlee counties. It is worth noting that all but one of these cases across both Graham and Greenlee Counties were for children under age 15. Hospital admittance for asthma issues may sometimes result from inadequate preventative illness management or poor environmental conditions in the home. Public health efforts might usefully target families with children under 15 years of age who suffer from asthma issues.

Number of Inpatient Discharges with Asthma as First-listed Diagnosis, 2008

		CHILDREN 0-15 YEARS OLD	ADOLESCENTS 15-19 YEARS OLD
Graham County	Female	12	1
	Male	17	0
Greenlee County	Female	0	0
	Male	1	0

Source: Arizona State, Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics, *Table 1 Number of inpatient discharges with asthma as first-listed diagnosis by age group, gender, race/ethnicity and county of residence, Arizona*. Retrieved April 7, 2010 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/plan/hip/for/asthma/index.htm>.

Additional data was available on the number of children entering kindergarten in 2007 in Graham and Greenlee with a variety of health conditions including: congenital conditions, anemia, asthma, and ADHD. Only 2 children in the Graham and Greenlee region were reported as having anemia. The most commonly reported health conditions were asthma and congenital conditions, at 4% and 2% of children entering kindergarten respectively across both counties. The highest percent of congenital conditions was reported in Ft. Thomas, at 33% of children entering kindergarten. Bonita reported high percentages of children with asthma and ADHD, at 17% for each condition, though these percentages must be viewed with caution, as the raw numbers are so small.

Health Conditions of Children Entering Kindergarten, 2007

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN	NUMBER AND PERCENT WITH CONGENITAL CONDITIONS	NUMBER AND PERCENT WITH ANEMIA	NUMBER AND PERCENT WITH ASTHMA	NUMBER AND PERCENT WITH ADHD
Bonita	6	0	0	1 (17%)	1 (17%)
Clifton	12	0	0	0	0
Duncan	21	0	0	0	0
Ft. Thomas	6	2 (33%)	0	0	0
Morenci	86	1 (1%)	0	1 (1%)	1 (1%)
Pima	53	3 (6%)	0	6 (11%)	1 (2%)
Safford	273	2 (<1%)	1 (<1%)	12 (4%)	3 (1%)
Solomon	28	0	0	0	0
Thatcher	101	3 (3%)	1 (1%)	6 (6%)	0
TOTAL	586	11 (2%)	2 (<1%)	26 (4%)	6 (1%)

Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Data were provided by Graham County and Greenlee County school nurses in 2007.

Obesity is now considered a major health crisis in this country. Over the last two decades, the percentage of adults in the United States who are overweight or obese has more than doubled. In Arizona, the rate of adults who are overweight exceeded 25% for the first time in 2007 (Robert Wood Johnson, 2009). Research suggests that it is during childhood when many people begin to develop eating and exercise habits that may affect them for life. Research suggests that youth who are overweight by the age of 8 are 80% more likely to become overweight or obese adults (National Association for Sport and Physical Education, 2006). This emphasizes the national concern that one in three children ages 2-19 in the United States is now considered overweight or obese (Ogden, et. al., 2010). In Graham and Greenlee Counties, the percent of children who are obese or at risk of obesity averages 5% across the localities for which data was available. Clifton reported the highest percent of children who are obese at risk of obesity, at 17% and 25% respectively. It should, however, be noted that data was only available on 12 children entering kindergarten in this location.

Obesity Status of Children Entering Kindergarten, 2007

	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENTERING KINDERGARTEN	OBESE		AT RISK OF OBESITY	
		NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Bonita	6	0	0	0	0
Clifton	12	2	17%	3	25%
Duncan	21	0	0	3	14%
Ft. Thomas	6	0	0	1	17%
Morenci	86	3	3%	3	3%
Pima	53	7	13%	5	9%
Safford	273	7	3%	11	4%
Solomon	28	2	7%	3	11%
Thatcher	101	7	7%	3	3%
TOTAL	586	280	5%	32	5%

Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Data were provided by Graham County and Greenlee County school nurses in 2007.

In 2008, parents in Graham and Greenlee Counties were asked to report on the ways in which they keep up-to-date with their child's health. Parents in all localities reported scheduled immunizations or when a child was sick as the most common ways in which they kept up with this important care for their child. Overall, 83% of parents reported scheduled well-child visits, 79% when a child is sick, 60% in an emergency, 85% for scheduled immunizations, 50% for dental checks, 15% for alternative medicine, and 32% for home remedies. Parents were allowed to select more than one way of keeping up-to-date with their child's health care. Numerous parents in the region noted that they did not have health insurance and so primarily dealt with emergencies as they arose rather than doing any preventive care.

Three Most Common Ways Parents Keep Up-to-date with Child's Health Care by Graham and Greenlee County Community, 2008

COMMUNITY	MOST COMMON WAY	SECOND MOST COMMON WAY	THIRD MOST COMMON WAY
Bonita	For scheduled immunizations	Scheduled well-child visits*	When child is sick*
Clifton	For scheduled immunizations	When child is sick	Scheduled well-child visits
Duncan	When child is sick*	For scheduled immunizations *	Scheduled well-child visits
Ft. Thomas	When child is sick*	For scheduled immunizations*	In an emergency*
Morenci	When child is sick	For scheduled immunizations	Scheduled well-child visits
Pima	When child is sick	For scheduled immunizations	Scheduled well-child visits*, In an emergency*
Safford	Scheduled well-child visits	For scheduled immunizations	When child is sick
Solomon	Scheduled well-child visits*	For scheduled immunizations*	When child is sick
Thatcher	Scheduled well-child visits	When child is sick	In an emergency

Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Data are from a survey conducted by the partnership in February 2008 with 272 parents in Graham and Greenlee Counties. *Indicates a tie in a community's respondents' choices.

Most Common Ways Parents Keep Up-to-date with Child's Health Care in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 2008

SCHEDULED WELL-CHILD VISITS	WHEN CHILD IS SICK	IN AN EMERGENCY	FOR SCHEDULED IMMUNIZATIONS	DENTAL CHECKS	ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES	HOME REMEDIES
83%	79%	60%	85%	50%	15%	32%

Source: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership (2008). *Painting the Picture: An Assessment of Early Care and Education in Graham and Greenlee Counties*. Safford, AZ: Graham/Greenlee School Readiness Partnership. Note: Parents could select multiple answers.

IV. Public Awareness & Collaboration

It is clear that any successful initiative aimed at effectively impacting early childhood development must be designed and implemented in an environment that includes both public awareness and collaboration.⁷⁰ For example, researchers⁷¹ found that the incorporation of a neighborhood into a wellness strategy for children and adolescents was an effective approach due to elements such as support, awareness, buy-in, and collaboration. Although information regarding public awareness and collaboration in the Graham/Greenlee Region is presented below, it should be noted that there are some gaps in the information due to the non-availability of the entire First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey.

A. Public Information and Awareness

Although the results for the entire 2008 Community Survey are unavailable, there are sections that inform the question of public information. These sections are discussed below in conjunction with additional data and information presented in the previous sections of this report.

Public Awareness of Early Childhood Issues

Although there does not appear to be a primary source for gauging the level of public awareness of early childhood issues, it may be argued that an assessment can be made through the use of other sources. First, according to the 2008 FTF Survey, 95% of respondents indicated that they were either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the information and resources available to them about children's development and health. Second, a review of the percentage of Graham/ Greenlee Region parents correctly responding to the 2008 questions on parental understanding of early childhood indicates a significant level of knowledge. Specifically, for 11 of the 22 questions tapping knowledge of childhood development, the percentage of Graham/Greenlee parents answering correctly was equal to or higher than the State average. It may be suggested that this finding reflects some level of public awareness of early childhood issues, and a need to heighten this awareness among the region's residents.

Availability and Use of Sources Related to Early Childhood

In the Community Survey created by LeCroy & Milligan Associates for this needs and assets report, and administered to service consumers in Graham/Greenlee, respondents cite several sources they use to find access to family services. The Department of Economic Security office and specific, local agencies (such as Easter Seals/ Blake Foundation, WIC offices, etc.) were mentioned as points of first contact for those seeking information and service referrals. Still, 18% of those responding to the FTF 2008 survey indicated that they could not easily locate services they needed, and 61% did not know if they were eligible to receive services, indicating that there is considerable room for improving communication systems about the availability of region services.

⁷⁰ Boocock, 1995.

⁷¹ Aber & Nieto, 2000

Importance of Public Awareness and Support for Early Childhood Programs in the Region

Research demonstrates that investing in early childhood development provides significant benefits to children, families, and communities. But in times of economic hardship, when resources are at a minimum and competition for those resources is high, it is particularly important that public awareness of the long range benefits of early childhood programs is cultivated. According to Lynch (2007)⁷² :

Children who participate in high-quality prekindergarten programs require less special education and are less likely to repeat a grade or need child welfare services. Once these children enter the labor force, their incomes are higher, along with the taxes they will pay back to society. Both as juveniles and as adults, these children are less likely to engage in criminal activity thereby reducing criminality overall in society. High-quality prekindergarten benefits government budgets by saving government spending on K-12 education, child welfare, and the criminal justice system, and by increasing tax revenues. Thus, investment in high-quality prekindergarten has significant implications for future government budgets, both at the national and the state and local levels, for the economy, and for crime. (Executive Summary excerpt retrieved online at: http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/book_enriching/)

Efforts to raise public awareness and support for early childhood programs is crucial in the Graham/Greenlee Region and statewide. Recent threats to the stability of First Things First funding, in the form of a Fall 2010 voter referendum to determine the continuation of the program, make the need to publicize FTF efforts and services of paramount importance. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council has publicized their efforts and many community members are aware of the importance and impact of the FTF supported work they have undertaken. Still, as evidenced by the lack of clarity of several community members who were contacted in conjunction with surveys and phone interviews for this report, additional efforts to highlight FTF funded services and raise the public's awareness of the long range benefits of those efforts would be beneficial.

72 Lynch, Robert G. Enriching Children/ Enriching the Nation. 2007. http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/book_enriching/

B. System Coordination

In addition to identifying the importance of public collaboration as a factor for positively impacting early childhood development, researchers have also identified the importance of inter-agency collaboration and system coordination. In order to promote system coordination it is important to first identify the services available, assess the level of inter-service awareness, and identify strategies to increase coordination and cohesiveness. These elements are discussed below.

Services Provided

An “inventory of services” list provided by the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council was reviewed and combined with other family service information available in secondary sources to produce the Table of Regional Assets in the Appendices of this document. Because of Graham/Greenlee’s relatively small population, tracking available services should prove manageable. Still, in these changing economic times, smaller providers and services in particular may be threatened, as evidenced by the closure of at least three individual child care providers in recent months. Changes in informal networks of service may also be difficult to track.

Awareness of Services

It appears that there is a fairly high level of awareness of available services, as evidenced by the FTF 2008 Survey results. Eighty-three percent of respondents from the Graham/Greenlee Region agreed that it is easy for them to locate services that they need or want, which suggests a certain level of awareness. It should be noted that there is also an awareness of the lack of services in the areas, with respondents to the 2010 Community Survey indicating that additional services are needed in multiple realms (including child care, healthcare, and others). Details of these findings are provided in the Section V Special Requests section of this report.

Coordination and Cohesiveness of Early Childhood Resources

There are a number of indications that efforts have been made, and are continuing to be made, to coordinate the regional efforts of early childhood resources. The monthly Community Network Meetings held in each county, as well as the monthly FTF Regional Council meeting present opportunities for current and continuing resource coordination and cohesiveness. In the 2010 focus groups conducted to determine regional professional development needs, several participants suggested that any FTF supported opportunities in this area should begin with a well publicized event, calling area providers together to ensure the coordination and availability of these enrichment opportunities.

V. Graham/ Greenlee Needs and Assets Special Requests

Introduction

The overarching purpose of the additional Regional Partnership Council funded tasks is to complement the FTF Regional Needs and Assets Report through the addition of information that relates to local issues. In order to accomplish this, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council identified a number of specific areas to be addressed including:

- Services that are available in the region
- Families' assessment of availability and satisfaction with services;
- Number of children/families served by various providers, and the demographics of those served;
- Number of provider staff employed, and training & experience of that staff;
- Staff-identified needs to improve & expand service (specifically professional development needs).

Members of the LeCroy & Milligan Associates' evaluation team compiled a list of questions designed to clarify details about the Regional Council's special requests and met with the Regional Coordinator and Council Members on February 16, 2010. At that time, preliminary plans were made to collect the necessary data. Data collections and materials were created and revised with feedback from the Regional Coordinator and Council. The Regional Coordinator and her staff also provided LeCroy & Milligan Associates with a thorough inventory of regional services, complete with contact information, which served as the basis for several of the data collection efforts described below. In the following table, the Regional Council's requests, targeted service group, data collection methodology, and data collected are briefly described.

Methods and Data Used to Fulfill Graham/Greenlee Regional Council Special Requests

COUNCIL REQUESTED INFORMATION ON:	TARGETED SERVICE GROUP/S	DATA COLLECTION METHOD	DATA COLLECTED
Available Services	All Regional Family Services	Requested Council Inventory list; Additional online and phone queries; Community survey on perceptions of services available	The Regional Council's inventory provided a thorough list of available services. Additional online and phone queries yielded few additional services. Phone surveys revealed some services that had been discontinued. Community surveys provided feedback on consumer perceptions of needed and available services.
Families' Use of Regional Services	Service consumers (families)	Paper and Online Survey	122 paper surveys were collected by G/G service providers; An additional 198 surveys were collected online, however most of these were deleted from the sample due to concerns about repeat surveys / authenticity*
Families' Evaluation of Services	Service consumers (families)	Paper and Online Survey	122 paper surveys collected; 198 surveys collected online, however most of these were deleted from the sample due to concerns about repeat surveys / authenticity*

COUNCIL REQUESTED INFORMATION ON:	TARGETED SERVICE GROUP/S	DATA COLLECTION METHOD	DATA COLLECTED
Number of children/families served and demographics of those served	Regional service agencies	Phone calls, email request and link to online survey	No phone calls returned; 5 online surveys completed.
Number of children/families served	Child Care Providers (Pre Schools, Head Start, child care centers and Individual providers)	Telephone Survey	53 providers called; 23 phone surveys completed
Number of staff and Training & experience of staff	Child Care Providers (Pre Schools, Head Start, Child care centers and Individual providers)	Telephone Survey	53 providers called; 23 phone surveys completed
Staff identified needs to improve & expand service	Child Care Providers (Pre Schools, Head Start, child care centers and Individual providers)	Telephone Survey	53 providers called; 23 phone surveys completed
Staff identified needs to improve & expand service	All Regional Service Providers	Focus Groups in Graham and Greenlee Counties, and Follow up email to Greenlee providers	2 Focus groups conducted (One in Safford, One in Clifton) No responses to follow up email

*Discussed in detail in the section on Consumer Use and Evaluation of Regional Services

Available Services in the Graham/ Greenlee Region

The Graham/Greenlee Region is made up of small towns and rural areas distributed over an expansive area. Graham County has a broader array of services available to residents than the considerably smaller Greenlee County. The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council provided LeCroy & Milligan Associates with an inventory list of services available in the region. This inventory included the following categories: Preschool, Head Start, Child care providers, Healthcare, Dental, Vision, Community Resources, Library, and Elected and Civic Officials. Additional online and phone research did not reveal any new services available in these categories, however expanded information on district schools and other services, were combined and presented in the Table of Regional Assets in the Appendices of this report. Some deletions were made when it was discovered that some providers had been impacted by the economic recession (and other factors) and had closed their doors.

In a community survey conducted for this needs and assets report, participants noted satisfaction with services that are available in the region, but indicated that there are limited resources available to them. As noted in the Economic Conditions section of this report, recent financial challenges to residents in the area have resulted in an increased need for a variety of services. It is not surprising that survey respondents noted a heightened need for access to community food and clothing banks. Support for child care costs, and lack of available financially feasible options for child care were also cited as needs for residents. Of 53 of the region's child care services (preschools, Head Starts, center and home child care providers included) contacted, four had closed their doors permanently, with at least two of those noting that parents' inability to pay had contributed to their closure. An additional five had disconnected phones, and 3 more had closed (in May) for the summer. Results from the phone survey are also presented later in this section.

Service consumers expressed a need for increased medical, dental, vision, and mental health services for children, with many noting that area doctors had closed enrollment to new customers without private insurance (i.e., capping service to public health insurance users or those without

coverage). Frustration was also expressed by area residents who, based on income levels, do not qualify for supplemental services (such as WIC or Head Start), but who nevertheless face economic hardship and find their family resources strained.

It should be noted that the Regional Council's efforts will infuse the community with new resources. In 2010, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council allocated \$636,000 to fund a number of strategies to improve the circumstances for young children and their families. These strategies include Quality First expansion, child care stipends, distribution of parenting kits, early childhood literacy projects, therapist incentives, home visitation, distribution of emergency food boxes, and emergency child care scholarships. Regional Council funding is being used to increase regional participation in Quality First by three child care centers beyond the state funded number. Another Regional Council initiative included in Quality First to improve early childhood education has been the provision of T.E.A.C.H. Arizona professional development scholarships to early childhood professionals.

Several of the Regional Council's initiatives have funded programs that provide economic or other material resources directly to families with young children. Through a grant agreement with Valley of the Sun United Way, 240 monthly and 54 emergency child care stipends were provided to low-income families. Funding provided to Graham County Interfaith Alliance will support the distribution of 149 food boxes to families with young children. The Regional Council also distributed 55 parent kits to local agencies for use in their work with parents of young children. In addition, the Regional Council has awarded funds to the Safford City-Graham County Library for reading and literacy activities and a book delivery program for young children and their families.

Funding for therapist incentives and home visitation were two of the Regional Council's largest outlays in 2010. The therapist incentives are designed to increase the number of therapists with expertise in the birth through age five population who work in the region. A Regional Council award to Child & Family Resources, Inc. provided for prevention of child abuse and neglect through a home visitation program for 55 at-risk families.

Consumer Use and Evaluation of Regional Services

Number of children/ families served and demographics of those served

LeCroy & Milligan Associates made several attempts to gather specific information on the number of children and families served by a variety of service providers throughout the region. Phone calls were made to all private medical practices, for example, and requests were made for the number and demographics of patients served. In some cases, phone messages went unreturned and in other cases, those answering the phone were unable or unwilling to supply the information. A phone survey of Child care providers (including Head Starts, preschools, and individual providers) was conducted and data was collected from 23 of the 53 providers contacted. Findings from this survey are reported later in this section. Phone calls were also made to several agencies in the "Community Resources" section of the inventory list, but were generally not returned, and personnel who were reached were unsure of who in their agency would have information on children and families served and their demographics. Finally, an online survey was designed and emailed to 16 of the Community Resource agencies. Of these, five responses were received, with varying degrees of information available. Because of the variability of those five responses, those findings are not included in this report.

Given the challenges of collecting this data, it is suggested that FTF weigh the importance of this information, and if the Regional Council deems it critical, a community wide, publicized effort be made to encourage collection and sharing of such data. For this report, the information successfully

obtained from the child care provider phone interviews and information given by service consumers in the Community Survey will add to the existing knowledge of service use patterns.

Community Survey Methods

The Graham/ Greenlee Regional Partnership Council members expressed an interest in finding out more about how the region's residents use services for families and young children, and whether residents are satisfied with the services they receive. To collect this information, LeCroy & Milligan Associates staff constructed a Community Services Survey, and after incorporating feedback from the Regional Coordinator, this was made available to residents. Members of the Regional Council distributed the survey in both paper and online formats to community residents. There were 122 paper surveys completed at multiple venues including a health fair, at Head Starts, in school district preschools, at WIC offices and in child care centers.

The online survey was posted in March and closed at the end of June 2010. There were 198 online surveys completed, of which all but 9 were eliminated due to a determination that most of these were generated from individuals submitting multiple copies of the survey, therefore invalidating the responses. Including the 122 paper and the 9 valid online surveys, a total of 131 surveys were analyzed. It is important to note that this was a convenience sample; that is, the respondents were not randomly sampled and therefore the results may not be representative of the community as a whole. Still, it should be noted that the venues where paper surveys were collected were likely to include the target population, that is, parents and caregivers of young children.

The survey contained six main sections: Demographic information, knowledge of and perceived accessibility of regional services, use of services by category, satisfaction with services received, perceived barriers to service use, and open ended questions. Results in each of these categories are reported below.

Community Survey Findings

Demographic information

Most of the survey respondents were female (87.8%). A total of 75 respondents described themselves as White (57.3%), 40 as Hispanic (30.5%), 7 as Mixed Race (5.3%) and 2 to 3 respondents described themselves in each of the following categories: Native American, African American, and Other (for a total of 5.8% in all three categories). The age of the majority of respondents ranged from 18 to 59 years old, with 8 people skipping this question and 2 indicating they were 98 years old. The majority of respondents (72, or 58.5%) were between 22 and 33 years old. The table below shows the distribution of respondents' age in 4 year increments:

Age of Community Survey Respondents

AGE RANGE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS IN AGE RANGE	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS IN AGE RANGE
18-21	7	5.7%
22-25	22	17.9%
26-29	28	22.7%
30-33	22	17.9%
34-37	9	6.5%
38-41	9	6.5%
42-46	9	6.5%
47-50	5	4.1%
51-54	4	3.3%
55-59	6	4.9%
98	2	1.6%
TOTAL	124	NUMBERS ARE ROUNDED, AND DO NOT EXACTLY TOTAL 100%

In response to the question, “How many children do you have?” 126 of the 131 survey respondents reported that they had a combined total of 367 children. Respondents were also asked to report the number of children they had in specific age ranges. The table below shows the distribution of respondents’ reports of their children’s ages. To gauge the accuracy of this data, the numbers of children by age range were totaled (369) and compared to the total number of children reported in the previous question (367). The numbers are not exactly equal, but do indicate that the age range breakout was accurately reported overall. Survey respondents indicated they had a total of 198 children from 0 to 5 years old.

Age of Respondents’ Children in Community Survey

RESPONDENTS’ CHILDREN’S AGE RANGE	NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THIS RANGE
0-2 Years	76
3-5 years	122
6-8 years	63
9-11 years	29
12-14 years	20
15-17 years	14
18 years and older	45
TOTAL	369

Knowledge of and perceived accessibility of regional services

Participants were presented with four statements about their knowledge of services and how to procure them in the Graham/Greenlee Region, and were asked whether they: strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or the statement was not applicable to them. The table below shows the frequencies of their responses in each category.

Knowledge and Accessibility of Regional Services – Community Survey

STATEMENT	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	NOT APPLICABLE
I know where to go to find services my family needs in Graham/ Greenlee County.	35.1%	52.7%	6.9%	.8%	2.3%
I know who to contact to find services in Graham/ Greenlee County.	26.7%	51.9%	16.8%	.8%	1.5%
There are services that my family needs that I cannot locate in Graham/ Greenlee County.	9.9%	25.2%	32.1%	13%	17.6%
I am confident that if I really needed something, I could find quality services for my family in Graham/ Greenlee County.	21.4%	56.5%	13.7%	3.8%	2.3%

A majority of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to locate services in the community. Approximately 88% agreed that they knew where to find services for their family, 79% knew who to contact to find services, and 78% were confident they could find services if they really needed them. It is notable that over a third of respondents (35%) agreed that there are services they cannot locate in the Graham/Greenlee Region.

Use of services by category

Survey respondents were also asked to check any and all services they used from a list provided. Results appear in the table below.

Service Use in the Graham/Greenlee Region- Community Survey

TYPE OF SERVICE	NUMBER USED	PERCENT USED	TYPE OF SERVICE	NUMBER USED	PERCENT USED
Pre-School	66	50.4%	Head Start	26	19.8%
Child Care Center	9	6.9%	Individual Child Care (Home Based)	19	14.5%
Children's Health Insurance (Including AHCCCS, KidsCare, etc.)	74	56.5%	Health Care (including clinics, medical centers, hospitals, and doctors' offices)	100	76.3%
Dental Services (including dental clinics & dentists)	72	55%	Vision Services (including clinics and eye doctors/centers)	53	40.5%
Home Visitation Services "including Healthy Families)	15	11.5%	Developmental Disabilities Services (including DDD, Easter Seals/Blake, AZ Early Intervention Program, etc.)	10	7.6%
Public Library Services	66	50.4%	Clothing Bank Services	15	11.5%
Food/ Nutrition Assistance (including WIC program, Food Bank, etc.)	60	45.8%			

The most heavily used services, in the order they were endorsed in this survey, were:

Health Care (76.3% of the sample), Children's Health Insurance (56.5%), Dental Services (55%), Pre-School services and Public Library Services (both 50.4%), Food / Nutrition Assistance (45.8%), Vision Services (40.5%), Head Start (19.8%), Individual Child Care (14.5%), Home Visitation (11.5%), Clothing Bank Services (11.5%), Developmental Disabilities Services (7.6%), and Child Care Centers (6.9%).

The above menu of services was categorized by type of service, so it may have been confusing to include an item for "faith based services," as these may cross many of the same categories already listed. To gauge community members' use of faith based services, participants were asked to respond to the statement, "My family and I rely on services from the Faith Based Community (i.e., churches, synagogues, etc.)." 43.5% responded that they either strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, 39.7% either strongly disagreed or disagreed, and 14.5% said the statement did not apply to them. It may be useful for the Regional Council to publicize efforts with the local faith based community, given the large percentage of respondents who have contact with these institutions.

In addition to the service categories above, survey respondents were asked if they used any other services that were not included in the menu offered. The following additional services and comments were received:

Additional Services Used

Community Action Weatherization Grant
Death Counselor for Children
Mental Health Services
Neurological Services
It is hard to find clothing and food banks.

Satisfaction with services received

The Community Survey included a section asking respondents to rate their satisfaction with services received in various realms. While 131 people took the survey, not all of them answered each question. The majority of consumers answering each item indicated that they were satisfied with services they received. The following table shows the frequencies of their responses, broken into three categories: Those who Strongly Agreed and Agreed that they were satisfied; Those who Strongly Disagreed and Disagreed that they were satisfied; and those who indicated the category was Not Applicable for them.

Satisfaction with Services in Graham/ Greenlee Region- Community Survey

TYPE OF SERVICE	SA AND A	SD AND D	NA	TYPE OF SERVICE	SA AND A	SD AND D	NA
Pre-School	69	4	16	Head Start	27	2	31
Child Care Center	9	9	36	Individual Child Care (Home Based)	19	4	37
Children's Health Insurance (Including AHCCCS, KidsCare, etc.)	69	6	13	Health Care (including clinics, medical centers, hospitals, and doctors' offices)	97	8	3
Dental Services (including dental clinics & dentists)	76	12	8	Vision Services (including clinics and eye doctors/centers)	47	6	17
Home Visitation Services "including Healthy Families)	17	3	37	Developmental Disabilities Services (including DDD, Easter Seals/Blake, AZ Early Intervention Program, etc.)	14	2	40
Public Library Services	67	4	16	Clothing Bank Services	14	5	37
Food/ Nutrition Assistance (including WIC program, Food Bank, etc.)	63	3	20				

From the results above, it appears that most service consumers were satisfied with the services they received. Still, several participants noted barriers to receiving services, and almost all of those surveyed responded to a query about what services are most needed in the region (reported on later in this section). From this information, it should be noted that while services may provide satisfaction, residents desire additional services in most service category areas.

Perceived barriers to service use

When asked if they had encountered barriers while trying to access community services, several respondents reported that they had encountered barriers to service use. The survey asked participants to check all of the barriers that apply, so multiple barriers may have been checked for a single survey respondent. The following table displays the frequency with which various barriers were cited.

Barriers to Service- Community Survey

BARRIER TO SERVICE	TIMES CITED	PERCENT OF SAMPLE CITING
Did not qualify for services	34	26%
Not enough services available (waiting lists)	21	16%
Transportation barriers	2	1.5%
Not enough information available	7	5.3%
Other		
Comments included:		
Do not have guardianship.		
Don't know what services are available.		
I had to work PT/FT and go to school to receive any day care assistance.		
No local locations.	6	4.6%

Over a quarter of survey respondents cited, “Did not qualify for services” as a barrier to accessing needed resources. This barrier came out in later open ended questions as well. The Regional Council may wish to consider how best to support families who face economic hardship but do not qualify for some income based service supplementation.

Open ended questions

Three open ended questions were included at the end of the Community Survey. Responses to each of these questions were sorted by theme and results are presented below, by question.

- If you needed some kind of service for your family, what is the first step you might take (or who would you try to contact)?

A total of 78 survey participants wrote a response to this question. Responses were sorted and analyzed, and ultimately divided into 9 thematic categories. Results are presented in the table below, ranked in order of the most popular responses.

THEMATIC CATEGORY	NUMBER OF COMMENTS	SAMPLE COMMENTS
DES	23	DES first, they usually have information you need. I would go to DES and ask them my options.
Specific agency/ individual identified	14	I talk to SEABHS. Call Easter Seals Blake Foundation. WIC offices Head Start Contact preschool coordinator. Family Resources
Word of mouth/ phone book / internet	11	I'd ask around the community. Ask around or make calls to find out where to go.
Family/ friends/ social network	10	I would contact family and get advice from them. Ask my mother in law. Call my cousin.
Health provider	7	I would first go to my family practitioner. Public health nurse. Ask the doctor.
County / city government	6	Graham County Health Department Call the health department Graham County Special Services Graham & Greenlee Counties City hall
Faith based	4	First go to my church. I call my church (LDS) and they help me out to find what I need.
Depends on situation	4	It depends on what types of services I would be seeking.
Other	1	I've tried but I can't get child care.

DES was mentioned more than any other point of first contact. Several responses referred to specific agencies or even individuals, by name, and all of these were considered as one category. Many individuals identified more informal approaches to help seeking, suggesting that they would “ask around” or talk to family members or friends for information. Others specifically noted that their health provider was a source for referrals. The counties, specifically health departments were mentioned, as were faith based institutions. Finally, several folks noted that their first contact would depend on what services they needed, and one person simply mentioned that they could not get the specific service they needed.

- **What kinds of services do you think are most needed to help families with children ages 0 to 5 years in Graham/ Greenlee County?**

A total of 96 people surveyed wrote a response to this question, although 8 of those indicated they “did not know.” Responses were sorted and analyzed, and ultimately divided into 13 service categories. Results are presented in the table below, ranked in order of the most popular responses. Many respondents suggested that multiple services were needed in the region.

SERVICE CATEGORY	NUMBER OF COMMENTS	SAMPLE COMMENTS
Preschools/ Head Starts / Early Education	26	Preschool be available to all children ages 3-5. Continued quality preschool for children who are not special needs or low income. Preschool enrichment at little or no cost.
Food / WIC / Nutrition	25	WIC : mentioned alone 11 times. Cooking classes using WIC commodities / homemade food. The summer food program is great. WIC program be available to all families with underaged children not just low income families.
Medical Services	23	An urgent care facility so as not to burden local hospitals with minor issues that arise after doctors' office hours. Decent medical services and costs. Immunization clinics Clinics. I'm new in town and I still haven't found a doctor who will take us and our insurance. They say they're too full. More medical doctors who accept AHCCCS. All doctors in valley are full and not accepting more patients. Pediatricians (mentioned 5 times)
Other Medical	17	Dental care (mentioned 8 times) Children friendly dentist Vision care (mentioned 7 times) Pediatric ophthalmologist Hearing services (mentioned 2 times) Mental health (mentioned once) Speech Therapists (mentioned once)

SERVICE CATEGORY	NUMBER OF COMMENTS	SAMPLE COMMENTS
Child care / Day care / babysitters	15	Child care (mentioned 8 times) Child care that is efficient and low cost. Day care (mentioned 4 times) Affordable daycare for those parents that need to work. Better daycare facilities. More day cares. Babysitters lists (certified, available, parent thoughts)
Health Insurance	12	AHCCCS (mentioned 5 times) Immediate health insurance when emergency situations arise like sudden loss of a job. Insurance of all kinds. Full medical coverage.
Activities	10	Any or all educational events for family fun and learning. Learning and kid friendly services / environment. More activities to keep kids interested in school and start to stay off the streets. Parent as teacher connection helping parents/kids to connect on an educational/family level. Activities for young kids.
Library	8	More programs like library fun. Library services
Economic/ finance / utilities	6	Resources for help with financial difficulties. Easier to qualify for rental/ utility assistance when needed and to offer more of these services to help when needed. Adequate heating / cooling.
Literacy	4	I think early literacy is a good thing to have Reading programs
Early Intervention	3	More early intervention workers. There are a large number of children in our community.
Language	2	For foreign residents like us. We just need that the school offer a program to develop English proficiency/capability for our children.
Other	2	Help with teaching how to treat others and their properties. Need to not cut the programs we have.

The highest number of respondents (26) considered Preschools/ Head Starts / Early Education a priority area. It should be noted that the Child Care / Daycare/ Babysitters category was counted separately, although the 15 endorsements received in this category are thematically related to the most popular category. Food/WIC/ Nutrition was ranked second, and many respondents expressed a desire for income eligibility restrictions to be expanded to allow for greater participation. Medical services and Health Insurance were high priority areas for many respondents, with a shortage of specialty providers noted, as well as caps on doctors' acceptance of AHCCCS. Again, these results, with their focus on basic needs and barriers to financial security, seem to make sense given the current economic climate.

- **Is there anything else you would like the First Things First Graham/ Greenlee Regional Partnership Council to know about?**

There were 19 responses to this question. They are all included in the following table, sorted into two main groups: Suggestions, and comments on existing FTF efforts.

Suggestions

- I believe children are our future & in order to help them achieve and aspire to be the best they can be early intervention & more services such as an excellent day care, head start & preschool are needed for all kids.
- I don't know if you already do this but testing for hearing/vision in or before preschool. May help with learning barriers earlier.
- More programs for kids to stay interested in reading.
- Programs that develop citizenship and good family relations.
- It's really hard to make ends meet with these low paying jobs. I think they should start up a new daycare for donations.
- Needs a better plan for low income apartments. Credit problems shouldn't have an effect on acceptance. Most people with low income have awful credit. We still need help getting into our own places.
- Not cut the programs we have.
- Raise income levels for medical coverage.
- Should be for all not just for people who qualify by income.
- We were on Mercy Care whole family, they took 2 of my children off cause we made \$35 too much. Help!!
- When a spouse is laid off from work he/she was the insurance carrier there should be some way that children should still get health insurance & not go without.
- Transportation in Greenlee
- A lot of the people that work for the agencies that provide services in the community are very rude and it would be nice to have people treat you nice when you go for a visit.

Comments on Existing FTF Efforts

- I love all the educational programs that are offered at the library!
- The programs that have been available because of First Things First are wonderful. The way the children have responded to the Dolly Pardon Imagination Library has been a delight to see. The way they look forward to receiving their book in the mail.
- You're doing a wonderful job. The emergency scholarship program helped many families go back to school and/or search for a job.
- Keep doing what you're doing, thank you.
- Thank you

Again, several (7) of the above responses specifically include some mention of financial difficulties .

Child Care Providers: Numbers served, staff training and experience, and training needs

Method

The Graham/ Greenlee Regional Partnership Council expressed an interest in finding out more about the number of children and families being served in child care settings in the region. In response to this need, LeCroy & Milligan Associates conducted a phone survey of all known preschools, Head Starts, child care centers and individual child care providers, obtained from the Graham/ Greenlee inventory of services list provided by the Regional Coordinator. There were 53 such entities in total. All were called, with multiple attempts made, and ultimately 23 provided answers to the phone survey. The names of the service providers are not used, as those interviewed were told that the information would remain confidential.

Interviewees were asked to provide information on: the number of children and families they served; the number of staff they employ, staff education and years of experience; and current training use and future professional development and training desired.

Findings

Number of Children / Families Served

The following tables provide a list of the service providers contacted, grouped by the type of service they provide. There are three groupings: Head Starts, Preschools, and Individual Providers. These groupings are reported separately in order to determine whether there are similarities / differences within and between the types of providers. For each center, information is provided on the number of children served, number of families served, number and titles of staff, and staff education and experience.

Children & Families Served, Staff Descriptions- Graham/ Greenlee Head Starts

HEAD START SERVICE PROVIDER NAME	# OF CHILDREN SERVED	# OF FAMILIES SERVED	# OF STAFF/ TITLES OR DESCRIPTIONS	STAFF EDUCATION	STAFF EXPERIENCE
A	57	57	11/ 1-Site Sup. 3-Teachers 3-Coteachers 1-cook 1-cook/maintenance	10=AA 1=BA	1=10+ yrs Others= not sure
B	60	60	7/ 6-Family Educators 1-Program Specialist	6=AA 1=BA	3= <1 yr 1=1-3 yrs 1=4-6 yrs 1=7-10 yrs 1=10+ yrs

The two Head Start centers interviewed served a total of 117 children and their families. Of the 18 employees at these two centers, 16 had Associate's Degrees and 2 had Bachelors Degrees. While data was unavailable for 10 staff, only 3 were reported to have had less than one year of experience, and an additional 3 had from 7 to more than 10 years of experience.

Children & Families Served, Staff Descriptions- Graham/ Greenlee Preschools

PRESCHOOL SERVICE PROVIDER NAME	# OF CHILDREN SERVED	# OF FAMILIES SERVED	# OF STAFF/ TITLES OR DESCRIPTIONS	STAFF EDUCATION	STAFF EXPERIENCE
A	70	65	6/ 2-teachers 4-aides	3-Tech Cert 1-AA 2-BA	1=4-6 yrs 1=7-10 yrs 4=10 yrs+
B	24	24	5/ Director 1-office mgr. 1-lead teacher 1-Assoc. Teacher 1- child care aide	1=GED/HS 1=Tech Cert 1= BA	1=4-6 yrs 3=7-10 yrs 1=10+ yrs
C	100	90	7/ 2-teachers 4-aides 1-speech therapist	3=BA 2=GED/HS 2=BA	1=4-6 yrs 3=7-10 yrs 1=10+yrs
D	60	48	3/ 1-Director/Lead teacher 2-Assistantss	2=GED/HS 1=BA	2=4-6 yrs 1=10+yrs
E	59	55	30/ Lead teachers Co-teachers Teacher ASST. Office mgr. Office Asst. Cook Cook Asst. Subs Directors	Not sure	Not sure
F	30	15	2/ 2-Teachers (preschool & kindergarten)	Not sure	2=10+ yrs

The six preschools interviewed served a total of 343 children from 297 families. Of the 53 employees at these six preschools, 5 finished High School or had GEDs, 4 had some Tech Certification, 1 had an Associate's Degree, 9 had Bachelors Degrees, and 32 were reported "unknown". Data on numbers of years of experience was only available for 19 staff. Of these 19, 5 had 4-6 years, 7 had 7-10 years, and 7 had more than 10 years of experience. It may be that the additional 34 staff had fewer years of experience, as those with longer service records might be more "memorable" to those being interviewed.

Children & Families Served, Staff Descriptions- Graham/ Greenlee Individual Providers

INDIVIDUAL -RUN SERVICE PROVIDER NAME	# OF CHILDREN SERVED	# OF FAMILIES SERVED	# OF STAFF/ TITLES OR DESCRIPTIONS	STAFF EDUCATION	STAFF EXPERIENCE
A	4	3	2/ 1-teacher 1-backup	2=GED/HS	1=1-3 yrs 1=10+ yrs
B	4	3	1/ Child care provider	1=GED/HS	1=10+ yrs
C	4	4	1/ Daycare provider	1= Tech Cert.	1= 10= yrs
D	2	1	1/ Daycare provider	1=A	1=1-3 yrs
E	3	2	1/ Daycare provider	1=GED/HS	1=10+ yrs
F	4	2	1-Daycare provider 1-Standin teacher's aide	2=GED/HS	1=1-3 yrs 1=10+ yrs
G	4	4	1/ Child care provider	1=Some HS	1= 10+ yrs
H	4	3	1/ Daycare provider	1=Some HS	1=10+ yrs
I	5	4	1/ Daycare provider	1=GED/HS	1=10+ yrs
J	4	4	1/Daycare provider	1=Some HS	1=10+ yrs
K	3	3	1/Daycare provider	1=GED/HS	1=7-10 yrs
L	4	6	1/Daycare provider	1=AA	1=10+yrs
M	4	3	1/Daycare provider	1=GED/HS	1=7-10 yrs
N	2	1	1/Daycare provider	1=GED/HS	1=7-10 yrs
O	4	3	1/Daycare provider	1= Some college	1=4-6 yrs

The 15 individual providers interviewed served a total of 55 children from 46 families. Of the 17 employees (mostly single owner operated) at these six preschools, 3 had Some High School, 10 finished High School or had GEDs, 1 had some Tech Certification, 2 had an Associate's Degree, and 1 reported "Some College." Of these 17, 3 had 1 year of experience, 1 had 4-6 years, 3 had 7-10 years, and 9 had more than 10 years of experience. This group, then, can be categorized as having a long experience record with a relatively low level of formal academic training.

Training use and future needs

All interviewees were asked to provide examples of trainings they had attended and new trainings desired. These are reported using the same groupings as the previous tables, by Head Starts, Preschools, and Individual Providers.

Training Use and Future Training Requests- Head Starts

HEAD START SERVICE PROVIDER NAME	TRAININGS ATTENDED	NEW TRAININGS DESIRED
A	Various monthly trainings on professional development growth, classroom & team building	I don't know, They make sure we get the trainings that we need.
B	EAC offers program conferences, infant development, positive language in home & substance abuse trainings.	Basic child development What curriculum is appropriate

Training Use and Future Training Requests- Preschools

PRESCHOOL SERVICE PROVIDER NAME	TRAININGS ATTENDED	NEW TRAININGS DESIRED
A	Need assessment at beginning of school year. Training depends on needs of the class, for example, autistic kids conferences & sharing info with others. County provides resources for professional development.	Trainings for more disabilities, classroom management.
B	Trainings sponsored by DES & CFR resource center.	Would like more hands on training with instructional techniques & ideas.
C	Few meetings with Head Start, but no professional development	Ideas on how to teach, what to teach for autistic kids, and kids with speech problems.
D	Trainings at Easter Seals- out of Tucson	Anything, basic teaching courses in different learning areas.
E	Project Me Too, ATI goes to college & Easter Seals/ Blake.	Trainings on language, challenging behaviors & how to help families cope with grief.
F	Trainings-not sure which ones	Not sure

Training Use and Future Training Requests- Individual Providers

INDIVIDUAL –RUN SERVICE PROVIDER NAME	TRAININGS ATTENDED	NEW TRAININGS DESIRED
A	We have to do 6 hr trainings in a year. We have to have our first aid & CPR up to date. I go to all trainings on behavioral problems and high learning.	Anything would be great.
B	All trainings, reading, disciplining, speech & special kids.	Any kind of trainings.
C	Not many available that fit my needs. DES training.	Trainings to share ideas with other providers & learn ideas from others. Food & nutrition programs & curriculum ideas.
D	Nothing	Have trainings in Morenci
E	CPR & First Aid	Have trainings on kids & what they do, mental problems / disabilities.
F	DES meetings, stand-in teacher's aides	Nothing in particular. I already teach & read to them.
G	Trainings on Toddler Institute & Child Development at the college (EAC)	Would like lending library program to come back. We need more teaching tools, more child care providers, trainings on kids with asthma, down syndrome.
H	CPR classes, fire extinguisher, classes for reading & toddlers.	Trainings on how to prevent child abuse & substance abuse. I would like young parents with children to have trainings on how they neglect their kids. A lot of parents don't bring me the kids prepared when they bring them to daycare (Ex: No milk, diapers).
I	Workshops in Greenlee County on different topics such as biting, crafts & safety.	Learn how to file for income taxes, what to claim. Trainings on parents who are on drugs & how to deal with them.
J	Trainings on development of small ones, how to work with them, writing, colors, abused kids, and one class at EAC.	Education for young ones on discipline with manners, get mothers on how to understand their kids.
K	Training through AZ Institute	I'm not sure
L	Trainings offered by Families First, Local library reading time, Food program- mid state, CPR and First Aid trainings	More times/ options to go to trainings. Not many options now.
M	None	No opinion
N	Trainings on Food Programs, a lot of different trainings	I don't know
O	Trainings on literacy, how kids cope with other kids & coping & getting along	Dealing with mental & physical disabilities.

There were a variety of suggestions for needed trainings. While some participants suggested specific topic areas (i.e., trainings on children with special needs, such as Autistic children, or classroom management and behavioral challenges), others appeared open to any kind of training opportunity, including the need to gather and share information and resources. In the following section, additional information is gathered from other community service providers (from child care and other realms), to expand on the professional development support that the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council may be able to provide for community members.

Staff identified needs to improve & expand service

Method

In response to the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council's wish to understand professional development needs among service providers in the region, LeCroy & Milligan scheduled two focus groups on this topic: One was held in Safford in Graham County, and one in Clifton in Greenlee County. These focus groups were both conducted on May 11, 2010. LeCroy & Milligan Associates created a flyer advertising the details of the focus groups and sent it to the Graham/Greenlee Regional Coordinator, who distributed it to partners. On the day before the focus groups, LeCroy & Milligan Associates staff telephoned 20 service providers from the two counties to remind them of the event. As a process note, it should be mentioned that during this round of calls and many of the phone outreach activities conducted to gather data for this section, providers were not instantly aware of what First Things First is on a statewide level, or what the efforts of the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council actually are. This is important information for the council, as, despite the council's repeated outreach attempts, many community members are still uncertain as to what services the council supports, what its goals are, and how they can make their needs and opinions known. It is recommended that additional outreach events be held to "spread the word" throughout these segments of the community.

The Graham County focus group included seven participants: 3 from Child & Family Resources, 1 from Easter Seals / Blake Foundation, 2 from WIC, and 1 from Child Parent Centers Head Start. The Greenlee County focus group had 2 participants: 1 from the Clifton library, and 1 Graham County Child & Family Resources employee, who was in Greenlee County to attend a meeting that day. Because the attendance was sparse at the Greenlee focus group, LMA attempted to gain additional information from Greenlee providers by sending an email with the focus group questions to multiple providers from the Greenlee inventory of services list. No additional responses were collected from this attempt.

There were ten questions originally included in the focus group sessions, and one was added during the sessions due to specific concerns of participants. The questions are listed below:

1. What kinds of professional development experiences have you tried in the past?
2. What professional development opportunities currently exist in Graham/ Greenlee?
3. What kinds of professional development experiences have you found to be most helpful in your work with young children?
4. What are some of the barriers you experience when trying to access professional development for yourself and/or your staff. What might help you get past those barriers?
5. What do you think is the most needed professional development service in Graham/Greenlee? Why?
6. If you could request any kind of professional development experience in Graham/ Greenlee, what would you request and why?
7. Where would it be most convenient for you to access professional development services?
8. When would it be most convenient for you to access professional development services?
9. How can these trainings be advertised? (This question was added during the session)
10. How important is it to you to receive college level credit for some professional development

opportunities?

11. If the FTF Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council could fund professional development in this community, what should they try to do first?

Responses to each of the questions are summarized below. Because of the sparse attendance at the Greenlee focus group, responses from both focus groups have been rolled into one summary.

Findings

1. What kinds of professional development experiences have you tried in the past?

Participants listed a variety of professional development experiences that they had attended in the past. These trainings are not limited to opportunities that were held in the Graham/Greenlee Region, and include some trainings that participants traveled to other communities to experience. The table below lists those specifically mentioned.

Past Trainings Attended by Focus Group Participants

Leadership trainings	CACFP Training
Participant Centered Education	IBCLC Trainings- To help moms with breastfeeding
Learning Centered Education	CPR/First Aid training
Prenatal trainings	Partnered with Head Start to do trainings on language development, developmental screenings (e.g. ASQ)
Adoption trainings	WIC related computer based training
ASQ trainings	"Brain" workshop
Alcohol/abuse trainings	Workshops at the Child Abuse Prevention Conference
Substance abuse conference put on by SEABHS	Community Network Meetings (professionals (teachers, social workers, DES, any agency that supports families) get together in Greenlee County once/month to receive/ provide updates on different agencies.
Civil Rights training online	
Nutrition training (WIC)	

2. What professional development opportunities currently exist in Graham/ Greenlee?

The list of current professional development opportunities in Graham/ Greenlee is considerably shorter than the list of trainings participants mentioned across multiple regions (Tucson, Phoenix, etc.). The table below lists the opportunities participants said they were aware of in the region.

Trainings that Focus Group Participants Cite as Available in Graham/ Greenlee

SEABHS provides some trainings, but participants were unsure what type of trainings were currently available.

Arizona Children's Association provides trainings in Graham County for professionals working with children and families.

Training on brain development

Although it is not necessarily related to children ages 0-5, The Safford Library offers workshops on job skills, resume writing, etc.

rainings/ workshops on substance abuse.

Once/ year Meth conference

At the ESBF with Project Me Too, there are 2-3 quarterly trainings/workshops on different topics (e.g., meal times, understanding aggressive behavior, etc.)

Domestic Violence training used to be held, but not recently

Central Arizona College currently offers a free annual training for Home-Based DES Child Care Providers

3. What kinds of professional development experiences have you found to be most helpful in your work with young children?

Responses to this question varied. Some participants offered suggestions about training content that was most helpful, while others described training formats and approaches that were most useful to them. Another person described an approach to trainings offered directly to families. Responses are included below.

Content of Trainings:

Breastfeeding trainings

Different types of trainings on topics related to children and families.

"I loved the trainings at the Healthy Families Institute. They were more in depth, but they no longer exist."

Training Formats / Approaches:

All day trainings, not just 1-2 hours

Trainings closer to home

"I like that our community (both Graham and Greenlee County) are small enough to be able to choose topics related to our community."

Training Formats / Approaches:

Participant Centered Education: Getting families involved in the service they are receiving. Rather than us leading, we let the family lead. It is empowering.

4. What are some of the barriers you experience when trying to access professional development for yourself and/or your staff. What might help you get past those barriers?

Four main themes emerged in the discussion of barriers to accessing professional development: Trainings held outside of the region; costs and staffing issues; a need for increased cross agency communication; and lack of advertisement and advance notice of opportunities. Comments related to these barriers are included in the table below, along with related suggestions about how to get past the barriers.

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO REMOVE BARRIER
Trainings held Outside of Graham/ Greenlee: Distance: Trainings are held in Phoenix and Tucson. Training received is metropolitan, so it's a challenge to apply it to a small town.	Hold more local / regional trainings
Costs/ Staffing Issues: Travel costs—accommodations No funding for professional development Not having staff support. We only have 1 full time staff, so if I have to attend a training I have to close down the (facility). Strain in the office. You feel like you are ahead of your work and we attend trainings, then have to play catch up when you get back.	Transportation assistance for staff More funds / support for professional development
Need for Cross Agency Communication We're all isolated because we're doing our agency work, so maybe more awareness of other trainings that exist across agencies. Communication barriers—I received an email about the focus group here I Greenlee County, but I did not know exactly what it was. I'm not familiar with FTE.	Increase communication across agencies. Possibly develop a "listserv", or send emails monthly on upcoming trainings, workshops, etc.
Advertisement/ Advance Notice: Lack of advertisement for trainings that do occur More advance notice—not have the ability to book or register early on. It would be helpful to book 2 to 3 months in advance.	Provide advance notice of trainings Advertise in more places

In addition to the barriers and proposed solutions, participants offered these observations:

- "Clifton Library has tried in the past to get more professionals involved at the library-- specifically the schools-- to collaborate and hold workshops and trainings for both professionals and families. It just doesn't seem like they are invested in doing this sort of thing."*
- Greenlee needs to set up a network of professionals. There are Community Network Meetings being held in Greenlee, but until last month the professionals attending were all from Graham County."

5. What do you think is the most needed professional development service in Graham/Greenlee? Why?

While most of the responses to this question involved content suggestions, there were also some suggestions for process. Both are presented in the table below.

Content Suggestions:

Workshops/trainings on parenting skills

Trainings on post-partum depression

Suicide prevention for parents/ staff professionals

Mental Health trainings

Being able to show what is developmentally normal (behavior) for children, so more trainings on understanding sexual behaviors among children (e.g., 2 year old children kissing... is this a concern?).

How to help families deal with grief (lately there have been tragic incidents in our community).

Process/ Approach Suggestions:

Having highly qualified educational professionals to conduct these workshops, trainings, parenting skills classes. We are limited.

Most important is pulling the Graham/ Greenlee community together, before even trying to do professional development.

6. If you could request any kind of professional development experience in Graham/Greenlee, what would you request and why?

Again, responses focused on content and process of the professional development requested. Responses are grouped below.

Content Suggestions:

More trainings on different content areas (substance abuse, teen pregnancy prevention, etc.)

Teen pregnancy prevention trainings (There are 8 students at Morenci High School who are currently pregnant)

More home visiting training

Trainings on best practice/ evidence based practice

Language development in toddlers

Process/ Approach Suggestions:

Trainings held during the work week, M-F 8-5

Annual early childhood conferences in our area. Having an outside person with a global view, then having someone available after the conference for support/ questions when we are actually applying it to our work.

Leadership trainings

Developing effective skills; more coaching, mentoring

When staff attend trainings, when they return they can schedule to do a 'mini' training to agency and/or other agencies. More collaborative...

7. Where would it be most convenient for you to access professional development services?, and

8. When would it be most convenient for you to access professional development services?

Participants in Graham County suggested that Professional Development services would be accessible at the General Services Building main meeting room, the Health Department, the Safford Library, or at Eastern Arizona College, all of which were noted for being able to hold a large audience. Comments from the Greenlee group noted that most opportunities currently exist in Graham County, and suggested that if more trainings were held in Greenlee there would be more community involvement. The library was a suggested location for meetings in Greenlee.

Suggestions for when professional development services should be made available were identical in the two focus groups. Suggestions included:

- Summertime, when more teachers and child care providers might be available
- Monday through Friday, 8-5
- Anytime with advance notice, and
- Setting regularly scheduled professional development meeting times might help.

9. How can these trainings be advertised? (This question was added during the session)

A discussion about a perceived lack of publicity and advertising for existing events in the region arose during the course of the focus groups. This question was added to gather participants' thoughts on how they thought information about future professional development opportunities might be disseminated across the region. Again, responses in the two groups were similar. Suggestions included:

- Use networking
- Be sure to share information at the Community Network Meetings
- Advertise in the newspaper, on radio, and television (specifically Channel 6, the local community channel)

10. How important is it to you to receive college level credit for some professional development opportunities?

With one exception, (a participant who noted that she expected to retire shortly), the opportunity to receive college level credit for professional development was met with great enthusiasm. Comments included:

- It would be amazing!
- Absolutely important
- It would be great. It puts a level of importance on it, but it would mean having higher quality professionals conduct the professional development.

11. If the FTF Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council could fund professional development in this community, what should they try to do first?

In keeping with responses to other questions in the interview, several participants suggested that the Regional Council should focus on pulling the community of professionals together prior to establishing specific content areas for professional development. Once this professional community was more cohesive, it was suggested that the group could work to prioritize the professional development needs at that time, as the needs “are always changing.” Additional comments included:

- Collaborate with Joanne Morales from the Early Childhood Advisory at Eastern Arizona College.
- Get together and form a “family support group” for professionals.
- Both counties need more child care providers.

VI. Summary and Conclusion

This report details findings from the second Needs and Assets Assessment completed in 2010 for the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council. This assessment will be used to help guide strategic planning and funding decisions of the Regional Council for the next year. While much of this report includes pertinent comparisons with data from previous years, the 2008 Needs and Assets Report for Graham/Greenlee can be used to provide additional perspectives and background information on this region.

Region Description

Graham and Greenlee Counties cover 6,467 square miles of south-east Arizona. Graham County is located in the Upper Gila River Valley where the San Simon River and the Gila River meet. It is located approximately 160 highway miles east of Phoenix and 125 miles northeast of Tucson. The cities of Graham County include Safford, Thatcher, Pima and smaller surrounding communities such as Bryce, Klondyke, Solomon, Ft. Thomas, and Bonita. Greenlee County is located directly east of Graham County and includes the cities of Clifton, Morenci, and Duncan.

Demographics

Graham and Greenlee Counties have a combined population of 44,454 people, with the majority of them residing in Graham County (36,452). The regions are ethnically and racially diverse, with approximately 32% of births in Graham County to Hispanic/Latino mothers and 42% of births in Greenlee County to mothers from this race/ethnic group. Of the births in 2008 in Graham County, 13% were to mothers who were American Indian or Alaskan Native compared to 3% in Greenlee County. Over half of the families in each county identify as White/Non-Hispanic. The families who make up this region are also diverse in their composition. Families include a significant number of teen parents, making up 16% of births in Graham County in 2008 and 18% in Greenlee County; both rates are well above the state average of 12%.

Economic Circumstances

In regard to economic circumstances, 17% of families in Graham County lived below the poverty line in 2008 and this percent increases to 48% for single parent, female-headed households and to 63% for single-parent, female-headed households with children under the age of 5. This suggests female-headed households with children, particularly young children, constitute a high need population in the region. Graham and Greenlee County School Districts also show wide variability in the prevalence of poverty in the region. The average gross annual income in Graham County was \$38,714, which is a 12% increase from 2000 to 2008. However, this number is still approximately 24% below the \$51,124 median income reported for the state as a whole. Greenlee County data which is only available from 2000 (due to the size of the county) suggests that this county has a higher average income than Graham County.

It is important to consider the current national economic climate when assessing the needs and assets of local regions. The nation is currently facing one of the worst economic climates in the country's history and families and children nationwide are impacted significantly. The families in Graham and Greenlee Counties are no exception. Unemployment data may provide the most complete and up-to-date picture of economic circumstances. In 2007, Graham County communities had unemployment rates of approximately 4% or less, with those rates rising to 6.8% in 2008 and then to 14.0% in 2009. In Greenlee County, the rates rose from 3.2% in 2007 to 5.9% in 2008 and then to 9.1% in 2009. The rates for the first four months of 2010 suggest that the unemployment rates may be starting on a slight downward trend from highs in January. The unemployment rates in Graham and Greenlee Counties in April 2010 were 13.1% and 12.0% respectively. The

unemployment rates continually show variation across specific communities within the region.

Net job flow data emphasizes the challenges many families in the region are facing. In Graham County, across the first two quarters of 2008 there was a net loss of 56 jobs, but in the first two quarters of 2009 there was a net job loss of 1,611 jobs. In Greenlee County across the first two quarters of 2008 there was a net loss of 293 jobs, and in the first two quarters of 2009 there was a net job loss of 1,419 jobs.

Many families rely on benefits to help them survive unemployment or low income levels. The number of families receiving nutrition assistance benefits increased by 39% from January 2009 to January 2010 in Graham County and by 44% in Greenlee County during this same time period. For children ages 0-5, the percent of children in the region receiving nutrition assistance more than doubled from January 2007 to January 2010. In most of the region's communities, 60% or more of school-going children are enrolled in a free or reduced school lunch program, as compared to 53% statewide. In addition, the number of children enrolled in the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program, which provides supplemental food for low-income pregnant and post-partum women and their children, increased from 2007 to 2009 by 32% in Graham County and 22% in Greenlee County. The number of families enrolled in WIC also increased during this time period in most communities. The rates of receipt of unemployment benefits in the region further emphasize the severity of the economic downturn. By January, 2010, receipt of unemployment benefits had increased by 7 to 10 times the rate they were in 2007 in most regions.

Educational Indicators

Research suggests that a mother's education level can have important implications for the educational progress of their youth. From 2004 to 2008, the educational level of mothers in Graham County followed an irregular pattern, moving up in some years and down in others. The general trend in high school graduation has been positive, with 47% of mothers having a diploma in 2008 as compared with 36% in 2005. In Greenlee County, a positive trend from 2004-2006 of decreasing percentages of mothers without a high school diploma reversed, with the percentage in 2008 (24%) reverting to what they had been in 2004. It remains a concerning fact that in most of the years from 2004-2008 in both Graham County and Greenlee County 20% or more of mothers lacked a high school diploma.

Other important educational indicators to consider include assessments of kindergarten readiness, special education needs, standardized test scores, and graduation rates. DIBELS data is used to assess school readiness and findings suggest that most of the kindergarten students met the motor benchmark, approximately one third met the concept benchmark, and there was significant regional variation in the percent of students meeting the language benchmark. Overall, the percent of students meeting the cumulative benchmark ranged from 40% to 67% in localities for which data was available. Two of the largest groups of students with special education needs are English Language Learners (ELL) and those with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Data shows that ELL and IEP kindergarten students are relatively dispersed throughout the region, though a higher concentration was noted in Safford, the region's largest population center.

In 2009, there was great variation by school district in the performance of the region's 3rd grade students on the AIMS mathematics, reading, and writing exams. Of the seven districts for which 2009 AIMS data are available, 30% or more of the students failed the mathematics exam in three districts, the reading exam in three districts, and the writing exam in one district. High school graduation rates show longer term outcomes for students enrolled in these districts. The Graham/Greenlee Region's high school graduation rates vary widely both longitudinally within schools and between schools. From 2004 to 2007, a movement of 10% in the graduation rate in a single year was common for many schools. The majority of schools had graduation rates of 85% or better for most or all of the

four years reported upon.

Early Care and Education

A majority of children ages birth to six years of age in the United States participate in regular, non-parent child care which highlights the importance of quality care to early childhood development. In addition, quality of child care has been shown to affect many youth outcomes. There is one nationally accredited early care and education center in the Graham/Greenlee Region, down from two in 2008. This center represents 8.3% of the region's 12 licensed centers, somewhat lower than the statewide rate of 10.7%. The region's licensed facilities had a combined capacity of 543 children. The largest percentage (63%) of this capacity was in Safford, followed by Clifton (25%), Morenci (23%), Duncan (12%), and Pima (11%). The data suggests that some areas in the region lack ADHS-licensed facilities, and that efforts to promote increased licensure are warranted.

Examination of child care assistance data by Graham County and Greenlee County zip codes reveals a decrease from January 2009 to January 2010 in the number of families and children receiving child care assistance in all areas of the region. The State of Arizona started turning away eligible families and placing them on a waiting list in February of 2009. This waiting list has continued and will most likely remain in place at least through June 2011. In Graham County, the number of families eligible for child care assistance has decreased 42% from 182 in January 2009 to 105 in January 2010. The number of families receiving child care assistance showed a smaller (20%) decrease over the same period, dropping from 109 in January 2009 to 87 in January 2010. In Greenlee County, the number of families in the region eligible for child care assistance has decreased 39% from 18 in January 2009 to 11 in January 2010. The number of families receiving child care assistance showed a greater (44%) decrease over the same period, dropping from 18 in January 2009 to 10 in January 2010. Arizona Department of Economic Security child care assistance data for 2009 shows that the percent of families and children receiving child care assistance in the region is lower than the percent eligible.

Family Support Programs

Family Support is a broad system of programs, services, and collaborations designed with the goal of helping families function to their potential. Different family support programs and services approach this goal in a variety of ways.

Data from the First Things First 2008 Family and Community Survey provide insight into parents' perception of services currently available in the region and their knowledge of child development. Most (95%) of the Graham and Greenlee Region parents surveyed were somewhat or very satisfied with the information available to them about children's development and health. However, approximately 43% of the parents expressed moderate or strong dissatisfaction with how agencies that serve young children and their families work together and communicate. A majority (75% or more) of the parents surveyed in the Graham and Greenlee County region agreed or strongly agreed that it was easy to locate the services they needed and that the services they received were very good. However, 30-40% of parents did not feel the services met all their families' needs and felt that they only received services after they qualified as severe. Approximately 40% of parents did not know if they were eligible to receive services. While suggesting some concerns with service access and availability, most of these percents are below the state average for the same indicators. Larger percentages of the region's parents answered correctly on 11 of 22 questions concerning child development on the survey than did parents statewide. However, the relatively low level of some scores indicates that continued efforts are still needed in the Graham and Greenlee Region to educate parents about child development.

Child Abuse/Neglect, Foster Care, and Juvenile Justice

The number of reports and substantiations of child abuse can indicate an increased need for family

support. The number of reports of child abuse in the Graham and Greenlee Region fluctuated from October 2007 to September 2009, ranging from 84 to 102 for each six month period in Graham County and 13-23 in Greenlee County. The number of new removals from the home ranged from 0-7 new removals for each six month period.

Foster care families and youth in the juvenile justice system may require specific services or support. According to the Arizona Department of Economic Security's most recent reporting, few children were entering out-of-home foster care by prior placements from Apr. 1-Sept. 30, 2009 in either county. No children entering out-of-home care were reported for Greenlee County during this time frame. According to the Administrative Office of the Courts, 385 juveniles in Graham County and 65 juveniles in Greenlee County were referred to the Arizona Court System in Fiscal Year 2009. Of the 450 total juveniles referred, just less than half (44%) of these youth then received standard probation. Approximately 17% of the cases were dismissed, 2% received a penalty only, 6% entered Juvenile Intensive Probation Services and 2% were committed to ADJC. The number of a region's children who are in the juvenile justice system may to some degree be taken as a measure of the efficacy of early child development and programs in a region.

Health Coverage and Utilization

The health and safety of children is of the utmost importance, especially to parents. With the high costs associated with health care, most families are dependent on health insurance to cover needed services. Data from 2008-2010 shows that in Graham County the percent of children enrolled in KidsCare dropped by 20% during this time period, while the number of children enrolled remained relatively steady in Greenlee County. Arizona as a whole experienced an even more dramatic decrease in KidCare enrollment during this time period, dropping from 63,580 kids enrolled to 42,162. This drop in enrollment likely does not reflect a drop in need, but instead a cutback in available state support for the KidsCare program.

Healthy Births

A mother's lifestyle while pregnant as well as her access to and utilization of prenatal and perinatal care have important short-term and long-term implications for the health of her child. It is recommended that a woman access monthly medical care from the beginning of her pregnancy. Arizona Department of Health Services data from 2006 to 2008 shows that the region was below the state average in the percent of women who received more than 9 visits during pregnancy. However, slightly fewer women in these counties reported no prenatal visits, as compared to the statewide average.

Teen mothers often face added pre-natal and perinatal challenges. Teen birth rates are higher in Graham and Greenlee County communities than state and national averages. Overall, there were 34 births to unmarried mothers under the age of 17 in the Graham/Greenlee Region. Over half of these births were paid for by public health insurance.

In a number of measures of the prenatal practices of pregnant women and characteristics of births, 2008 data from the Graham/Greenlee Region compares somewhat unfavorably with the state as a whole. Compared to the statewide average, more than twice as many women in the region use tobacco during pregnancy. Births in the region are also more likely to have complications with labor and/or delivery as well as abnormal conditions reported. The Graham and Greenlee Region is comparable to the state on many other characteristics related to newborns and mothers giving birth, including: rates of births with medical risk factors, primary and secondary caesarean births, and infants admitted to newborn intensive care.

Low birth weight babies are at risk for serious health problems that may affect their health throughout their lives. The low birth weight ratio differs significantly between Graham and Greenlee

Counties. In 2008, the low birth weight ratio in Greenlee County was 65.0 whereas for Graham County the ratio was 96.3. The average for Arizona was recorded at 75.4.

Other Health Indicators

Immunizations have been shown to be one of the health measures with the most important contribution to public health in the past century. Across localities in Graham and Greenlee Counties, 83% of the 586 children entering kindergarten are immunized. Ft. Thomas and Morenci have the lowest percent of kindergarteners immunized of the locations for which data was available, at 50% and 60% immunized respectively. Bonita, Clifton, and Duncan report a 100% immunization rate.

Developmental screening is another family health practice essential for ensuring children grow and develop optimally. The percent of infants and toddlers who received Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) is slightly higher in Graham and Greenlee Counties than in the rest of Arizona from 2005-2008.

Over the last 50 years, the United States has seen significant declines in infant and child mortality, however, many deaths still occur that are the result of injuries that could be prevented. In Greenlee County, no child deaths were reported from ages 1-14 in 2007 or 2008, the only years for which this data was available for the county. In Graham County, four child deaths were reported in 2008, from causes including accidental drowning and submersion and congenital malformation.

For children entering kindergarten, the most commonly reported health conditions were asthma and congenital conditions, at 4% and 2% of children respectively across Graham and Greenlee Counties. Hospital admittance for asthma issues may sometimes result from inadequate preventative illness management or poor environmental conditions in the home. In 2008, 31 youth under 19 years of age received an inpatient discharge with asthma as the first-listed diagnosis in the Graham/Greenlee region.

Obesity is now considered a major health crisis in this country. Research suggests that youth who are overweight are more likely to become overweight or obese adults. In Graham and Greenlee Counties, the percent of children who are obese or at risk of obesity averages 5% across the localities for which data was available.

In 2008, parents in Graham and Greenlee Counties were asked to report on the ways in which they keep up-to-date with their child's health. Parents in all localities most frequently reported keeping up to date through either scheduled immunizations or when a child was sick. Numerous parents in the region noted that they did not have health insurance and so primarily dealt with emergencies as they arose rather than seeking any preventive care.

Graham/Greenlee Special Requests

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council requested that additional local information be obtained to complement the FTF Regional Needs and Assets Report. The following specific areas were addressed:

- Services that are available in the region
- Families' assessment of availability and satisfaction with services;
- Number of children/families served by various providers, and the demographics of those served;
- Number of provider staff employed, and training & experience of that staff;
- Staff-identified needs to improve & expand service (specifically professional development needs).

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Council provided LeCroy & Milligan Associates with an inventory list of services available in the region. This inventory included the following categories: Preschool, Head Start, Child Care Providers, Healthcare, Dental, Vision, Community Resources, Library, and Elected and Civic Officials. Additional online and phone research did not reveal any new services available in these categories, however expanded information on district schools and other services, were combined and presented in the Table of Regional Assets in the Appendices of this report. Some deletions were made when it was discovered that some providers had been impacted by the economic recession (and other factors) and had closed their doors.

In a community survey conducted for this needs and assets report, participants noted satisfaction with services that are available in the region, but indicated that there are limited resources available to them. Given the economic environment, it is not surprising that survey respondents noted a heightened need for access to community food and clothing banks. Support for childcare costs, and lack of available financially feasible options for child care were also cited as needs for residents. Service consumers expressed a need for increased medical, dental, vision, and mental health services for children, with many noting that area doctors had closed enrollment to new customers without private insurance. Frustration was also expressed by area residents who, based on income levels, do not qualify for supplemental services (such as WIC or Head Start), but who nevertheless face economic hardship. It should be noted that the Regional Council's efforts will infuse the community with new resources. In 2010, the Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council allocated \$636,000 to fund a number of strategies to improve the circumstances for young children and their families. Several of the Regional Council's initiatives have funded programs that provide economic or other material resources directly to families with young children.

LeCroy & Milligan Associates made several attempts to gather specific information on the number of children and families served by different types of service providers throughout the region. There were challenges with collecting this data, however, the information successfully obtained from the child care provider phone interviews and information given by service consumers in the community survey will add to the existing knowledge of service use patterns.

The Graham/Greenlee Regional Partnership Council members expressed an interest in finding out more about how the region's residents use services for families and young children, and whether residents are satisfied with the services they receive. To collect this information, LeCroy & Milligan Associates staff constructed a Community Services Survey. A total of 131 surveys were analyzed. The survey contained six main sections: Demographic information, knowledge of and perceived accessibility of regional services, use of services by category, satisfaction with services received, perceived barriers to service use, and open ended questions.

A majority of participants either agreed or strongly agreed that they were able to locate services in the community. Approximately 88% agreed that they knew where to find services for their family, 79% knew who to contact to find services, and 78% were confident they could find services if they really needed them. It is notable that over a third of respondents (35%) agreed that there are services they cannot locate in the Graham/Greenlee Region. The most heavily used services, according to this survey, were: Health Care (76.3% of the sample), Children's Health Insurance (56.5%), Dental Services (55%), Pre-School services and Public Library Services (both 50.4%), Food / Nutrition Assistance (45.8%), and Vision Services (40.5%). In response to a question asking participants what their 1st step in seeking Graham/Greenlee services would be, DES was mentioned more than any other point of first contact.

Based on this survey, most service consumers were satisfied with the services they received. Still, several participants noted barriers to receiving services, and almost all of those surveyed responded to a query about what services are most needed in the region. Residents desire additional services in most service category areas. Several respondents reported that they had encountered barriers to

service use. Over a quarter of survey respondents cited, “Did not qualify for services” as a barrier to accessing needed resources.

When asked what kinds of services are most needed to help children 0-5 and families in Graham/Greenlee, the highest number of respondents (26) considered Preschools/ Head Starts / Early Education a priority area. Food/WIC/ Nutrition was ranked second, and many respondents expressed a desire for income eligibility restrictions to be expanded to allow for greater participation. Medical services and Health Insurance were high priority areas for many respondents, with a shortage of specialty providers noted, as well as caps on doctors’ acceptance of AHCCCS clients as sources of frustration for residents. These results make sense given the current economic climate.

The Graham/ Greenlee Regional Partnership Council expressed an interest in finding out more about the number of children and families being served in child care settings. In response to this need, LeCroy & Milligan Associates conducted a phone survey of all known preschools, Head Starts, child care centers and individual child care providers in Graham/Greenlee. Interviewees were asked to provide information on: the number of children and families they served, the number of staff they employ, staff education and years of experience; and training and professional development. Not unexpectedly, there were low numbers of child care staff with a Bachelors degree or higher, though many providers have several years of experience in the field. There were a variety of suggestions for needed trainings including specific topic areas, general training opportunities, and information and resource sharing.

In response to the Graham/ Greenlee Regional Partnership Council’s wish to understand professional development needs among service providers in the region, LeCroy & Milligan also scheduled two focus groups on this topic. Participants listed professional development experiences that they had attended in the past, and ongoing trainings they were aware of within the region. Four main themes emerged in the discussion of barriers to accessing professional development: Trainings held outside of the region; costs and staffing issues; a need for increased cross agency communication; and lack of advertisement and advance notice of opportunities. Suggestions to resolve the barriers included: hold more local/regional trainings; offer transportation assistance for staff; provide more funds/support for professional development; increase communication across agencies; provide advance notice of trainings; and advertise in more places. Several participants suggested that the Regional Council should focus on pulling the community of professionals together prior to establishing specific content areas for professional development to collaboratively prioritize the professional development needs. The opportunity to receive college level credit for professional development also met with great enthusiasm.

Next Steps

This needs and assets report provides a large amount of information describing the Graham/Greenlee Region, the status of young children and their families living in the region, the services available to those families, and the opinions and expertise of several early childhood providers in the region. To fully utilize the information gathered for this report, it will be necessary for the Graham/Greenlee Council members to analyze the report carefully and develop a plan of action that is supported by the data.

As a first step toward achieving this goal, LeCroy & Milligan Associates helped facilitate a Graham/ Greenlee Council meeting on August 9, 2010, to present the data and engage council members in the process of identifying potential next steps. During this facilitation, key data points were highlighted, and council members were actively involved in connecting the issues challenging the community with existing resources (including FTF programs and strategies already initiated in the area), and remaining gaps in service. While it is too early for the council to create a strategic plan for the next funding cycle, the data based discussions initiated at the August 9th facilitation will become

part of an ongoing dialogue that will eventually inform future strategic decisions. Equipped with the data available in this needs and assets report, and an ability to form key questions and engage in data driven discussions of the issues, the Graham/Greenlee Council appears well prepared to take the next steps to continue to improve the lives of young children and their families in the region.

Appendices

- A. Table of Regional Assets
- B. References and Citations

Appendix A:

Table of Regional Assets - Graham/Greenlee

ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS					
Arizona's Children Association	(928) 428-0711	203 W. 5th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
AZEIP Graham/Greenlee Counties	(928) 428-7700	250 W. 15th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Boys and Girls Club of Gila Valley	(928) 348-7922	805 S. 7th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
CHAP Ministries	(928) 428-7852	2417 E. Highway 70	Safford	AZ	85546
Child & Family Resources	(928) 428-7231	310 B E. 4th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Clifton Public Schools	(928) 865-2752	P.O. Box 1567	Clifton	AZ	85533
DES Child Care	(928) 428-3405	1938 Thatcher Blvd.	Safford	AZ	85546
Duncan Unified School District	(928) 359-2472	P.O. Box 710	Duncan	AZ	85534
Eastern Arizona Courier	(928) 428-2560	301 E. Highway 70	Safford	AZ	85546
Easter Seals Blake Foundation	(928) 348-8825	250 W. 15th Street	Safford	AZ	85546
Ft. Thomas School District	(928) 485-9423	P.O. Box 28	Ft. Thomass	AZ	85536
Gila Health Resources	---	P.O. Box 218	Morenci	AZ	85540
Gila Health Resources	---	118 W. 5th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Graham County Chamber of Commerce	(928) 428-2511	1111 Thatcher Blvd.	Safford	AZ	85546
Graham County Health Department	(928) 428-7690	820 W. Main St	Safford	AZ	85546
Graham County School Superintendent	(928) 428-2880	921 Thatcher Blvd.	Safford	AZ	85546
Graham County Special Services	(928) 485-2759	P.O. Box 488	Pima	Az	85543
Graham County WIC Program	(928) 428-7690	820 W. Main St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Graham/Greenlee Health Resources	---	118 W. 5th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Greenlee County Health Department	(928) 865-2601	Courthouse 5th & Leonard	Clifton	AZ	85533
Greenlee County Health Department	(928) 359-2866	P.O. Box 153	Duncan	AZ	85534
Healthy Families					
Child & Family Resources	---	301 B E 4thSt.	Safford	AZ	85546
Morenci Public Schools	---	P.O. Box 1060	Morenci	AZ	85540
Mt. Graham Safe House	(928) 348-9104	1519 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Pima Schools	---	P.O. Box 429	Pima	AZ	85543
Safford Unified School District	(928) 348-7000	734 11th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Solomon School District	(928) 428-0397	2550 S. Stevens Ave.	Solomon	AZ	85551
Southeastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services	(928) 428-4550	620 S. Central Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Thatcher Unified School District	(928) 348-7220	P. O. Box 610	Thatcher	AZ	85552
United Way of Graham County	(928) 428-0275	P.O. Box 811	Safford	AZ	85546

COLLEGES

Eastern Arizona College	(928) 428-8233	615 N. Stadium Ave.	Thatcher	AZ	85552
Eastern Arizona College - Early Childhood Education	(928) 428-8919	615 N. Stadium Ave.	Thatcher	AZ	85552

HEALTHCARE

Family Medical Center					
Clinton Dameron, D.O.					
Ray Tuttle, PA-C					
Joel Wright, M.D.	(928) 348-2151	1492 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Gila Valley Clinic					
Deborah Black, PA-C					
Michael Evans, PA-C					
Gail Guerrero, MD					
Kathryn Gradin, PA-C					
Susan Jones, M.D.					
Shirley Rheinfelder, M.D.					
Catherine Romero, M.D.					
Richard Keith, M.D.	(928) 428-1377	2016 W. 16th St., #W	Safford	AZ	85546
Mt. Graham Family Practice					
Drew Christensen, M.D.					
Brian Kartchner, M.D.					
Kenneth Larson, PA-C					
Carolyn McCormies, FNP-BC					
Bradford Montierth, M.D.					
Lynn Smith Smith, M.D.					
Trent Batty, M.D.	(928) 428-3122	2250 W. 16th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center	(928) 348-8777	1600 S. 20th St	Safford	AZ	85546
Safford Community Health Center	(928) 428-1500	618 S. Central Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Valley First Care (Urgent Care)	(928) 348-0000	618 S. Central Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Rex Bryce, M.D.	(928) 348-3703	2270 W. 16th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Paul McMaster, D.P.M.	(928) 348-3700	2270 W. 16th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Gary Muncy, M.D.	(928) 348-1600	2241 W. 16th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Frank Oppong-Takyi, M.D.	(928) 348-7782	1496 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Alkesh Patel, M.D.	(928) 348-3801	1600 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Gregg Standage, PhD, M.D.	(928) 348-1370	1515. S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Justice Tran, M.D.	(928) 348-8208	2020 W. 16th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Duncan Valley Medical Clinic	(928) 359-1380	227 Main St.	Duncan	AZ	85534
Gila Health Resources	(928) 865-9184	---	Morenci	AZ	85540

DENTAL CARE

Bushman Dental Care	(928) 348-9181	400 E. US Hwy 70	Safford	AZ	85546
Central Dentistry		1807 W. Thatcher Blvd.			
	(928) 428-2750	Ste. 2	Safford	AZ	85546
Gila Dental	(928) 865-2780	1 N. Coronado Blvd.	Clifton	AZ	85533
Glade Smith DDS	(928) 428-1617	1475 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Joseph Bull & Assoc. DDS	(928) 348-9181	1517 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Kirk Lundell DDS (Dr. Weech - Pediatric Dentist)	(928) 428-6161	810 W. 8th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Lynn Skinner DDS	(928) 428-0550	610 S. 6th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Morenci Dental Clinic	(928) 865-2332	Morenci Shopping Ctr.	Morenci	AZ	85540
Mt. Graham Dental Associates	(928) 428-5331	1530 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Pima Dental	(928) 485-9223	10190 Cottonwood Wash Rd.	Pima	AZ	85543
Richard Lines DDS	(928) 428-555	1455 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Safford Dental Care	(928) 428-4255	102 W. Main St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Scott Lee DDS	(928) 428-7095	813 W. Court St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Steven Owens DDS	(928) 348-3355	602 S. 8th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546

VISION CARE

Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center	(928) 428-6390	825 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Barnet Dulaney Perkins Eye Center	(928) 865-4191	244858 Hwy 191	Clifton	AZ	85533
Family Eye Center	(928) 428-4360	1502 S. 1st Ave., Ste. 8	Safford	AZ	85546
Charles Ferrin	(928) 428-0500	1124 W. Thatcher Blvd.	Safford	AZ	85546
Walmart Vision Center	(928) 428-7990	755 S. 20th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

Southeastern Arizona Behavioral Health Services	(928) 428-4550	620 S. Central Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
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CHILD CARE

Mt. Graham Child Care and Guidance	(928) 348-7087	300 Discovery Blvd.	Safford	AZ	85546
Tammy Acosta	(928) 348-0357	5092 E. Clifton St.	Solomon	AZ	85551
Mandy Ajeman	(928) 428-6151	3881 W. Fuller St.	Thatcher	AZ	85552
Belinda Aranda	(928) 428-6641	258 E. Solomon Rd.	Safford	AZ	85546
Monica Armstrong	(928) 651-4513	5246 W. Wagonwheel Rd.	Safford	AZ	85546
Michelle Campos	(928) 651-4866	3956 W. Lee St.	Thatcher	AZ	85552
Alejandrina Dominguez	(928) 428-4527	2525 Safford-Bryce Rd.	Safford	AZ	85546
Brandy Fullen	(928) 428-2866	668 W. Doggie Dr.	Safford	AZ	85546
Mary Hallford	(928) 428-0594	900 E. Hollywood Rd. #24	Safford	AZ	85546
Maria Hilliard	(928) 428-1177	733 Keisha Lane	Safford	AZ	85546
Jennifer Jewell	(928) 651-1878	1134 N. Hillside Lane	Thatcher	AZ	85552
Peggy Johnston	(928) 485-0668	10178 W. Cottonwood Wash Rd.	Pima	AZ	85543
Edna Kerby	(928) 428-4715	900 E. Hollywood Rd. #153	Safford	AZ	85546
Kellie Lancaster	(928) 428-2359	3880 W. Fuller St.	Thatcher	AZ	85552
Minnie Lopez	(928) 792-2582	1074 S. 4th Ave.	Thatcher	AZ	85552
Carol Macias	(928) 348-9462	900 E. Hollywood Rd. #44	Safford	AZ	85546
Jo Ann Martinez	(928) 348-0454	1023 Yuma Circle	Safford	AZ	85546

Julia Medrano	(928) 428-1314	1889 Mesa Circle	Safford	AZ	85546
Kimberly Miller	(928) 428-9168	627 W. Spur Dr.	Safford	AZ	85546
Diane Montez	(928) 428-0271	3853 W. Johnson St.	Thatcher	AZ	85552
Carolina Murillo	(928) 348-4933	655 W. 23rd St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Martha Ornelas	(928) 428-4296	715 23rd St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Alicia Ramirez	(928) 428-5045	290 E. Cherry St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Patricia Rietz	(928) 965-5889	3934 W. Anderson St.	Thatcher	AZ	85552
Danial Sanchez	(928) 322-6356	2007 S. 9th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Janie Sanchez	(928) 428-3365	1609 S. Montierth Lane	Safford	AZ	85546
Mary Sonive	(928) 428-1739	115 E. 4th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Ann Tovar	(928) 428-8178	2303 s. 12th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Jonnet Woods	(928) 485-9418	39 W. 2nd North	Pima	AZ	85543
Stephany Apodaca	(928) 865-3770	106 Roan St.	Clifton	AZ	85533
Teresa Leonard	(928) 865-3770	108 2nd St.	Clifton	AZ	85533
Margaret Siqueiros	(928) 865-4419	106 Mistletoe Dr.	Morenci	AZ	85540
Rocio Yanez	(928) 865-2704	113 Sage Lane	Morenci	AZ	85540

Preschools

Brighter Day Preschool	(928) 485-2759	P.O. Box 488	Pima	AZ	85543
Bulldog Boulevard	(928) 348-7050 ext. 4260	1400 S. 11th St	Safford	AZ	85546
Dorothy Stinson Preschool	(928) 348-7010 ext. 1316	2013 S. 8th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
First United Methodist Preschool & Daycare	(928) 428-1167	1020 S. 10th Ave.	Safford	AZ	85546
Palomita Children's Center (Easter Seals Blake Foundation)	(928) 428-0363	250 W. 15th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Safford Christian	(928) 428-4234	P.O. Box 1074	Safford	AZ	85546
Solomon Preschool	(928) 428-0477	P.O. Box 167	Solomon	AZ	85551
Clifton Preschool	(928) 865-4917 ext. 2401	P.O. Box 1567	Clifton	AZ	85533
Fairbanks Learning Connections Preschool	(928) 865-3501	P.O. Box 1060	Morenci	AZ	85540
Shepherd of the Hills Preschool	(928) 865-4650	P.O. Box 1212	Morenci	AZ	85540

Head Starts

Palomita Children's Center (Easter Seals Blake Foundation)	(928) 348-8825	250 W. 15th St.	Safford	AZ	85546
Pima Head Start	(928) 485-3024	P.O. Box 1083	Pima	AZ	85543
Sierra Bonita Head Start	(928) 428-0455	P.O. Box A	Safford	AZ	85546
Duncan Head Start	(928) 359-2872	P.O. Box 860	Duncan	AZ	85534

LIBRARIES

Clifton Library	(928) 865-2461	P.O. Box 1226	Clifton	AZ	85533
Morenci Library	(928) 865-2775	P.O. Box 1060	Morenci	AZ	85540
Pima Library	(928) 485-2822	50 S. 200 W	Pima	AZ	85543
Graham County/Safford City Library	(928) 348-3202	808 S. 7th Ave	Safford	AZ	85546
Duncan Library	(928) 865-2461	P.O. Box 115	Duncan	AZ	85534
Greenlee County Library System	---	P.O. Box 908	Clifton	AZ	85533

Appendix B: References

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